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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

The Journal Of Professional Adventurers



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THE SOLDIER'S HANDBOOK

This text is a virtual encyclopedia of extraordinary techniques and tips on how to fight, protect yourself and kill! How to blow up things and commit mayhem! And survive. The opening chapters distill courage and decision making to basic techniques which can be learned. The remainder of the text is devoted to tips and techniques which do away with laborious exercises and time consuming training. It reduces hand to hand combat to the very essentials of how to kill suddenly with your bare hands in ways which can be learned in seconds, how to fight with a knife the first time you pick one up, correctly, simply and effectively! How to construct lethal expedient explosive devices from basic household-grocery items; how to surreptitiously enter buildings, offices, safes, file cabinets, desks and vehicles; professional methods of assassination that require no special skills or equipment or practice; tips on survival in jungles, the Arctic, on the desert, and in barrooms, or on the streets; the basic knots and rope tricks which permit you to do almost anything with a rope short of serving it for dinner; how to construct expedient weapons and silencers; emergency no-nonsense combat first aid; patrol tips that make the difference on raids, ambushes, establishment of clandestine bases, counter-ambush techniques, search, handling of POWs; and more! — by America's most decorated and complete soldier — Tony Herbert. And it fits into your fatigue trouser pocket — all 200 plus pages. Nothing like it has ever before been available.

Some will object to this text but the methods and techniques explained have been passed on through the offices of the CIA, DIA, FBI and terrorist organization headquarters for years. A knowledge of same can only enhance your professonal capabilities as well as aid you in protecting against them.

NOTE: This text will be sold on a limited restricted basis only.



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PREPARED BY LT. COL. ANTHONY B. HERBERT, (Ret.)
JUNE, 1979

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"Do you want the government prying into your finances? I'll show you how to keep them away."



A Message from Mark Skousen

Three years ago I met a field auditor with the Internal Revenue Service. At social gatherings, when the talk got around to the mess in Washington and everyone's gripes about the government, he would interrupt with, "Now what did you say your social security number is?"

He was joking—or so he said. But his words set me thinking. If the government can catch me with a number, then the power to tax is indeed the power to destroy.

I began to study the situation. I was appalled to discover how much the government and business groups could find out about my personal and financial affairs without my even knowing it.

But I also learned that there were steps I could take—perfectly legal steps—to keep the snoops out of my life.

Then, as I got deeper into the problem, I realized that other men and women were troubled too. They were angry, but they felt helpless to do anything about it. When I told them the simple steps they could take, for example, to protect their social security number, most of them just wouldn't believe me, until I actually proved it. One friend suspected his boss was spying on him. I showed him a free, easy way to find out whether his office phone was bugged. A friend of my wife's was having trouble with her husband. He was living beyond their means, spending their savings on heaven knows whom. I was able to show her how to store her valuables safely, outside her home and her safe deposit box.

But one thing I learned after three years of research. Nobody had ever written a book about how I could protect my privacy. It seemed that everybody was afraid of what the government would do to him.

Well, I don't consider myself a hero, but I decided to take on this project myself. After all, I am not doing anything illegal—or recommending anything illegal. My book is not for criminals. (They already know all the illegal methods.) It is for concerned citizens who don't want to break the law, but want to do everything possible to keep the government, business competitors, or prying relatives out of their private lives and their financial affairs.

My publisher calls the book Mark Skousen's Complete Guide to Financial Privacy. If secrecy,

financial and otherwise, is one of your concerns, I'm certain my book will help you, in dozens of ways. For example:

- 5 reasons why you need financial privacy now.
- How to make sure your larger checks are not available to the government.
- Treasury rules on foreign bank accounts: 5 promising *legal* loopholes.
- 2 little-known tricks for preserving privacy even with a listed phone number.
- How to learn what data a credit bureau is furnishing about you.
- 2 ways to get a sizable loan without collateral and without revealing the purpose of the loan.
- Risks you should not take to maintain privacy.
- How to mail money out of the country anonymously.

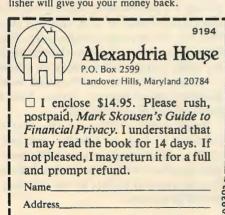
"Privacy from government is perhaps the most important thing in life right now."

-Harry D. Schultz

- The 10 best ways to hide your valuables.
- You can avoid probate, and the harmful publicity that goes along with it.
- The terrible powers of the IRS.
- Sample contract to assure bank privacy.
 The benefits of a (perfectly legal) fictitious company checking account.
- The 6 best tax havens. Advantages and disadvantages of each. 6 common reasons for using a tax haven.
- How to use money orders, cashier's checks and travelers checks to enhance privacy. How to avoid the pitfalls.
- How the post office can monitor your
- IRS devices to learn more about you.
- The joys of a diplomatic passport. 3 ways a nondiplomat may get one.
- Mexican banks: there's privacy, but also risks.
- Advantages of foreign accounts even where there is no secrecy.

- Project Haven, and the illegal behavior of IRS agents.
- Money couriers: many work for the underworld, but some don't.
- U.S. and Nazi tax laws: one disturbing similarity.
- An expert's rundown on alarms and security devices.
- Advantages—and risks—of a second passport.
- The positive side of the so-called Bank Secrecy Act.
- Ways anyone can spy on you—legally!
- Swiss banks: still secret, in most circumstances. The 35 crimes that allow the Swiss to reveal bank secrets. Large and small Swiss banks—which are better?
- One-stop Swiss banking: the amazing variety of services. The numbered account: pro and con; how it works.
- 2 legal ways to take a large sum out of the country without reporting it.
- 3 ideal investments for maintaining privacy.
- Your investments: those that get reported to the IRS; those that are not reported.
- 24 steps to financial and personal privacy—a summary.
- 7 tips to help you avoid a tax audit.

Yes, my book can help, in countless ways. Proof: send for it. If you don't agree, my publisher will give you your money back.





1979 HANDGUNNER OF THE YEAR

LEE Jurras is 1979's Outstanding American Handgunner. The announcement was made at the Seventh Annual Awards dinner held in San Antonio.

Jurras, in the last decade and a half, has been responsible for more handgun innovations than any other man. His Super Vel Cartridge Corporation (since sold) in Shelbyville, Ind., was first to market good hunting ammunition, ammunition of a quality capable of forcing industry biggies to meet his standards. Super Vel gave handgun hunters their first expanding bullets and high intensity loads capable of shooting over extended ranges, making 100- to 200-yard (and even farther for the practiced) hits possible.

Jurras has been a leader in getting the idea across that handguns have more uses than just for shooting people. He started the Outstanding American Handgunner Awards in 1973 to create public interest in the sport. He urged the formation of a foundation to continue the awards once the program became established.

Under the leadership of Larry Kelly (Mag-na-port Arms), Chairman of the Board; Steve Vogel (Sturm, Ruger & Co.), President; and J.D. Jones, Vice-President, the Foundation has become self-supporting. Jurras then stepped aside to found the International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association (IHMSA).

This year's Outstanding Handgunner program, held in San Antonio's El Tropicana Hotel, was MCed by Jim Carmichel, shooting editor of Outdoor Life, whose wit and wisdom prevailed throughout the program. The invocation was handled by Terry Hudson in memory of George Nonte (1926-1978); Dan Wesson (1916-1978) and Capt. Dan Combs (1920-1976) of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. A special presentation honoring each of these men was made during the program.

Jurras lives in Hagerman, N.M., where he now makes custom single-shot pistols for the hunters seeking big, dangerous game on a worldwide basis. His calibers start at .375 and run through .500 with bullets to 600 grains. Not for the average handgunner, that's for sure. He drove to the dinner from his home in order to deliver the bronze award that goes to the winner. He hadn't shipped it because he wanted to be sure nothing happened to it.

Nominees for the 1979 award were Ray Chapman, Elgin Gates, Dean Grennell, Steve Herrett, Jurras, Neal Knox, Bob Milek, Harry Reeves, Dan Wesson and Hal Swiggett.

Elmer Keith (1973) was the first Outstanding American Handgunner, followed by Colonel Charles Askins (1974), Bill Ruger (1975), Bill Jordan (1976), Harlon Carter (1977) and Skeeter Skelton (1978). To this distinguished list has been added the name of Lee Jurras. He has dedicated a lot of years of his life to the sporting use of handguns. It is fitting that this award go to him.

—Hal Swiggett

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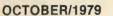
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S. Nielsen

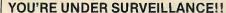
One-man army Daniel Roxo cleaned up African bush, until his own prophesy came true.

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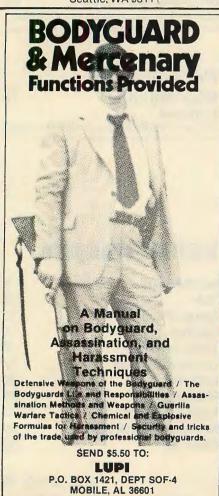
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READER ADVENTURES SOUGHT ...

Soldier of Fortune, which has always felt a close sense of identification with its readers, is now going to take a further step and make some of its readers its authors.

In future issues we will begin a new column, actually two of them. The new feature will be true adventures experienced by readers. Each issue will have two of these, one concerning a combat experience and one non-war related. The latter could be a hunting, fishing, mountain climbing or other outdoor adventure or any exciting incident that has occurred and can be verified, an encounter with a holdup man or a police experience, for example.

And it will be a chance to pick up some change. SOF will pay \$50 for each adventure used.

War-related experiences will be titled "It Happened to Me" and the other called "I Was There."

Upon publication, SOF will become owner of all rights of publication and the submitted articles will be subject to editing and revision although their context and theme will not be changed. Stories must be held to 500 words or less and should be typewritten and triple spaced. A photo would be helpful. Also enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope so we can notify you of acceptance or return of your story.

You won't be in competition with professionals since no regular contributor to SOF will be eligible, nor will our editorial staff.

The reader-authors will be working with SOF Senior Editor M.L. Jones and articles will be bylined: By [reader-author] As Told To M.L. Jones.

So if you've got a super war story or exciting experience, sit down, get it on paper and send it to SOF. We'll be looking forward to hearing from you.

SOF expects to get a heavy response so all offerings won't make it but everyone who submits an article will get an SOF patch.

L EATHERGOODS CORRECTION ...

In Adventure Quartermaster of our July 1979 issue, we ran a photo of the Dirty Harry holster. Unfortunately, most of the information below that photo was incorrect. Lawman Leathergoods' correct address is Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 447, Ka-

ty, TX 77450, (713) 371-7964. They sell holsters for most popular handguns. Holsters for 6½-inch barrels and under cost \$64.95; holsters for 6½-inch to 8-3/8-inch barrels cost \$74.95 plus \$2.50 for shipping. Lawman's catalog costs \$2.

SF RESERVE JOBS ...

On 18 May 1979, Soldier of Fortune (SOF) Military Affairs Editor Alexander M.S. McColl, also a reserve lieutenant colonel with Special Forces, completed a two-week Mobilization Designee (MOBDES) tour at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The project on which he was working was of more than routine interest to readers of SOF.

The Special Forces Mobilization Designee Program includes a group of U.S. Army Reserve Special Forces officers and NCOs who periodically train with and augment the Active Component Special Forces School at Fort Bragg, NC.

And here's the zinger: The organization is wide open and looking for SF-qualified officers, NCOs (E5 and above) to fill the following vacancies:

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CPT	11B5G	25A5G			
E9	11Z5S				
E8	11B5S	31Z5S			
	96B4S	91B4S	97C4S	HC4S	92B4S
E7	11B4S	12B4S	91B4S	31V4S	
	11C3S				
E6	11B3S	12B3S	31 V3S	91B4S	

If you're interested and/or qualified, write to: Commandailt, USAIMA, ATTEN: ATSU-DS-TM-ET/RC (Mr. John Cox), Fort Bragg, NC 28307. Please enclose a resume of military and civilian experience and education.

THE WAY THE

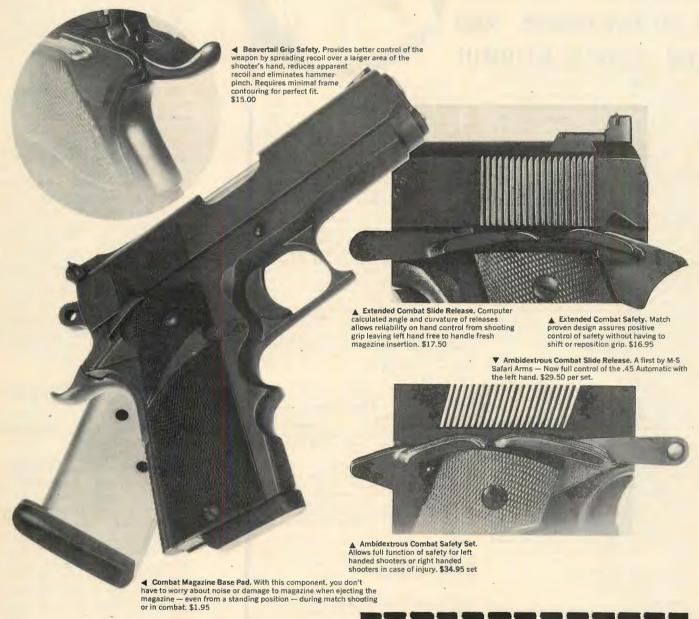
The Weathermen, a notorious group of '60s radicals, have dropped from the minds of the public and the FBI's 10 Most Wanted List, but those who combated them are still in the public eye — but not as heroes.

L. Patrick Gray III, former acting director of the FBI; Mark Felt, his number two man; and Edward S. Miller, former chief of counter-intelligence, are all under indictment for alleged actions taken in the line of duty against the terrorist organization.

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The Enforcer has become immensely popular in a relatively short period of time because it is an excellent, lightweight, deadly accurate combat pistol. Also, because it includes a multitude of custom features that make it, perhaps, the most attractive and practical .45 caliber automatic ever made.

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As thousands of a disarmed populace were murdered, conditions were so severe that they had to arrive at ingenious ways to survive, and solve food and clothing problems . . . let Mr. Schneider tell you about it.

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1978

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savings accounts could be wiped out overnight?

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In short, you'll discover in this book how to live better today and be more prepared for tomorrow.

Mr. Schneider is also the author of another unusual book, MASTERS OF LEGALIZED CONFUSION AND THEIR PUPPETS (65,000 copies in print!), an undisputed eye-opener written without compromise. Now BOTH books can be obtained for only \$9.90 POST-PAID. And for each additional set ordered, you pay just \$7.90 extra-\$2 OFF (a 20% saving)! Books can also be sent direct to your friends at no additional cost with your compliments! Prompt shipment guaranteed

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The Citizen's Legal Defense Fund For the FBI, sponsored by such luminaries as Sen. Barry Goldwater, former astronaut Frank Borman, and the late John Wayne, succeeded last year in getting similar charges against retired FBI agent John J. Kearney dropped, but legal expenses are enormous, and the Fund can use still more contributions from concerned Americans anxious to see our public servants defended. Contributions can be sent to and information on the Weathermen obtained from Suite 808, 95 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016 (212) 689-6148.

WERBELL RAISES HELL ...

Mitchell Werbell, flamboyant exspook, is now operating a counterterrorism school on his 60-acre estate just west of Atlanta, Georgia. Warning that the tide of terror and kidnapping sweeping Europe will soon engulf the U.S., Werbell told newsmen, "Our job is not just to kill the crazies - you call them terrorists, I believe. Hell, anybody can do that with a screwdriver. What we want is to keep somebody from getting killed and that ain't easy." Calling himself and his cadre "dogs of war," Werbell is getting a lot of press attention - and it will undoubtedly be good for business.

Lyndon Larouche, president of the U.S. Labor Party, was his first client, and since then, Werbell has had many corporate executives and political figures enroll their bodyguards in the course.

PUSH-BUTTON NAVIGATION ...

A new satellite mapping system may revolutionize warfare in the near future, says Lt. General Richard C. Henry, commander of the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Organization.

Navstar will consist of 24 satellites flying in space at an altitude of 10,900 miles. Each unit will cost \$12 million and carry an atomic clock so accurate Air Force sources claim it will lose only one second in 30,000 years.

To plug into the system, scheduled to be fully operational by the mid-'80s, a lost GI would merely punch a "locate" button on a 20-pound radio pack. Navstar would then collate the information with four satellites in a matter of seconds and send back the data to his radio set as map coordinates. It can also provide distance and heading information to a unit or any objective programmed into it.

And it's accurate. Navstar will be able to locate people, places and machines within 30 feet of their actual locations.



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NEW TITLES

TECHNIQUES OF HARASSMENT - How The Underdog Gets Justice by Victor Santoro

by Victor Santoro
In today's society there exists a large "grey area" of justice where the average good-guy gets screwed, blued & tattoed. Many wrongs fall short of being criminal — hence, no police help! In this book, Victor Santoro brings forth a virtual encyclopedia of "dirty tricks" the underdog can use to get revenge. This is guerrilla warfare reduced to the lowest common denominator — where one man can become an army, striking from the shadows, to reduce his target to a mental basket case. No legal or moral assessment is made and the reader is cautioned that this book is for entertainment reading only. reading only.

STREET FIGHTING America's Martial Art — by George Carpenter

This book turns the spotlight back to fighting This book turns the spotlight back to fighting skills' that have put more opponents in the hospital or grave yard than all the Oriental skills combined. Written by a man who has "been and done," this book compares hand-to-hand fighting techniques as to what works and what dosen't. This is not the book for "fair fighters" or "dojo ballerinas," but is an invaluable handbook for anyone who wants to be able to punch, kick and claw his way to victory or safety under great odds. Hardcover edition only, loaded with photos.

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SHOOTOUT - Modern Gunfighting -by Tony Lesce

by Tony Lesce
This refreshing new book separates fact from fiction on the subject of combat & defensive shooting. Chapters cover such subjects as: Gunfighting and Some Misconceptions; Guns and Equipment; Ammunition; Psychological Factors; Shooting Stance and Style; Tactics of Gunfighting; Gunfight Situations; Questions & Answers; Setting Up Practice Situations. A vital source of information in a field where correct knowledge can give you that life saving edge over knowledge can give you that life saving edge over an opponent.

HOW TO OPEN HANDCUFFS WITHOUT KEYS

by Carl Roper
A great companion volume to Handcuffs, U.S.,
Vol. 1. Written for the locksmith, handcuff collector, and professional magician, this book covers picking techniques of the most antique cuffs — up to and including how to pick modern cuffs, such as the S&W high security cuffs used by the U.S. Marshall Service, Well illustrated with many drawings and photos.



BLOODY IRON

BLOODY IRON
by Harold J, Jenks & Michael H, Brown
"Bloody Iron" is a revolutionary new book on
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and done." Many never before told, secrets of
knife fighting are revealed, including: life saving
techniques, moves and tricks, all illustrated by
dozens of large clear photographs. "Bloody
Iron" is a radical departure from all the previously
taught techniques. You don't have the full story
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DEVIL DOGS — Attack & Guard Dog Training — by George Carpenter

by George Carpenter

A great new source of information on how to buy
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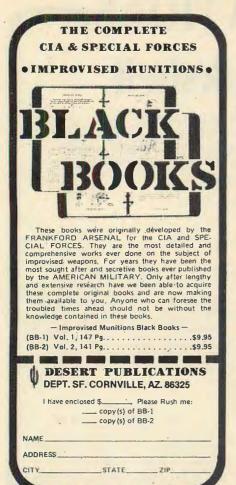
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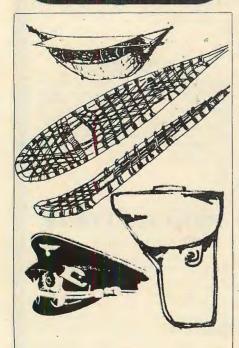


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FLAK

CHINESE POLICY QUESTIONED ...

Sirs:

In regards to your comments and all other comments on "Taiwan Betrayal" (SOF, Apr. '79), I am surprised. Many of my fellow Marines have been on liberty in that country and it is far from free. It sucks up American dollars and pays nothing in return. Nationalist China is about as useless as our welfare system.

However, are we so nearsighted as to call Red China our friend? It was purely a monetary move to establish official relations with Red China. So let's not examine the morality of such a move but the integrity.

Sincerely
Sgt. George J. Hill, Jr.
Yuma, Arizona

MARINE SPEAKS OUT ...

Sirs:

I joined the Marines four years ago because I believe in the Corps and my country. I'm glad others share my beliefs:

President Carter seems to be letting the whole world walk all over the U.S. Well, the Marines won't stand by for that bullshit. It happened once in 'Nam. It won't happen again. The pext time, we're gonna show the world that the Marines are truly "the fiercest fighting men on earth."

Semper Fidelis, Cpl. David D. Meyer Camp LeJeune, North Carolina

BATE INFO

Sirs:

"BATF Gestapo" (SOF, June '79) has to be one of the most informative, useful articles I have ever read. If only there were some way to make the article available to everyone who has a FFL.... Mucho people could benefit from the information, but will not read it in SOF....

I feel really appreciative when someone shares a little truth with us all.

Thank you,
Tom Holbrook
Palmer, Massachusetts

We suggest you tell anyone who may not have read David T. Hardy's article in SOF to write the Second Amendment Foundation, Bellefield Office Park, 1601-114 SE, Suite 157, Bellevue, WA 98004, for their report, The BATF's War on Civil Liberties, an analysis of BATF's

assault on gun owners. See feature review this issue.—The Eds.

RANGER ENLISTMENT ...

Sirs:

I am an assistant operations sergeant for an infantry battalion and could not believe the letter sent in by the sergeant in reference to joining the Army Rangers (Flak, Aug. '79). He stated a man could not join the Rangers by enlisting - not true. A man wishing to join the Rangers may in fact do so by enlisting, or after joining the Army and finding it not exciting enough in a line unit, may ask for a transfer to a Ranger battalion. He must get his commander's approval and a letter of acceptance from a Ranger battalion. He does not have to be Ranger-qualified or jump-qualified to be accepted. If accepted, he will be enrolled in Ranger school and jump school. We have had many of our personnel follow these guide lines. I hope this letter will help to put that sergeant on the right track.

SSG J.C.E. Fort Stewart, Georgia

PEOPLE ARE THE PROBLEM ...

Sirs:

I would like to thank Sgt. Gary Johnston for his editorial, "Guns Are Not The Problem" (SOF, Aug. '79). I have never before seen anything on the subject which so excellently relates or tells exactly what the problem is — people.

I do not find the term, "death penalty," offensive in any way. I am a firm believer in capital punishment and would like very much to see its revival in this country. I do not believe in violence or murder, but if a person repeats crimes of that nature, then his punishment should fit his crime and he and others like him should be removed from our society.

A1C Mike Cantrell
Minot AFB, North Dakota

COMBAT ROUNDS READY ...

Sirs:

While reading the article on Chris Dempster (SOF, June '79), I was astonished to find that he couldn't remember if he had one up the spout of his FN or not. I think all will agree with me when I say if you are anywhere near a combat situation you've always got a round in the chamber. That extra second to pull back the cocking lever could very well spell disaster not only

to yourself but quite possibly to anyone else with you.

Yours truly, J-Mak Welland, Ontario, Canada

VIETNAM VINDICATION ...

Sirs:

I've just read your July issue and must send this letter of thanks, especially for the interview with the ex-NLF Toai and Hieu. As one who was there, it absolutely blew me away to hear two who were enemies give us praise that the vast majority of our own people failed even to consider. The irony of this staggers me — vindication by VC! Time will show the victors It's almost as if they were asking us back again. Well, damn it, I'm ready. On to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City!

This time, let's do it right.
Esprit de corps,
Donald J. Mallen
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

OTHER ELITE UNITS ...

Sirs;

I enjoyed your article on Navy SEALs (SOF, March, April 1979), and I hope you will continue to write about the elite groups of the other branches as well.

Among these, a trip to Lackland AFB near San Antonio may show USAF pararescue specialists to be some of the most physically fit. The Tactical Air Command's Special Operations Force Combat Control Team at Eglin Auxilliary Field No. 9 (Hurlburt Field) near Valparaiso, Florida, should provide SOF readers with additional insight into America's toughest fighting men.

S.Sgt. George Falcon
Plattsburgh AFB, New York

NEWSSTAND NO-NO ...

Sirs:

Just a short note to thank you for doing such a great job. I was totally washed out on "war" magazines and it was a great relief to find SOF on the newsstand. Then horror of horrors! My local magazine jobber chickened out and quit carrying your magazine.

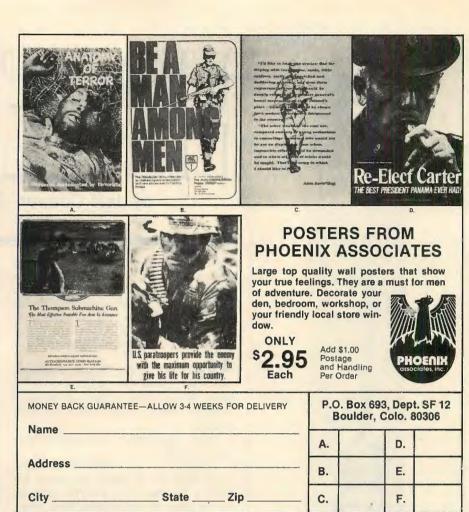
When I asked him why, he replied, "A magazine like that ought to be shut down. It's worse than pornography. All that killing."

My only reply was, "The truth hurts, huh?"

I compliment you on doing a fine job reporting the problems in Rhodesia and for your fine technical articles on various weapons.

Thanks, Brian L. Thompson Alexandria, Louisiana





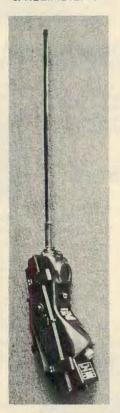


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FISTOLERIET

by Jeff Cooper Ken Hackathorn

SOF's Combat Pistolcraft column welcomes letters from our readers. If you have a good question or contribution, send it to Jeff Cooper, care of Soldier of Fortune, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. For a quick, personal reply, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

• In SOF, Apr. '79, you mentioned the AMT Hardballer usually required a great deal of effort to get it to function properly. What are the faults that need fixing?

On my Hardballer, I've had the following problems:

1. Sights are not aligned with bore. Even with the rear sights adjusted to the limit, it still shoots low and I do not want to file down the front sight. Does someone make an extra high rear-sight blade for the Microsight?

2. The slide stop tends to vibrate out during firing, resulting in jamming. What can I do about this?

M.J.J., Long Beach, California

A • Your query is rather confusing in that you ask me what is wrong with the Hardballer, then you proceed to tell me. My answer is that what is wrong with the Hardballer is what you have told me is wrong with the Hardballer, plus a few other things. Fortunately, living in Long Beach, you have access to several very good gunsmiths who probably by now have a perfect standard set of treatments for the AMT pistol. Hoag, King, or Pachmayr can straighten you out in short order — for a price.

Contact: James W. Hoag, 8523 Suite "C," Canoga Ave., Canoga, Park, CA 91305; King's Gun Works, 1937 West Glenoaks Blvd., Glendale, CA 91201; or Pachmayr Gun Works, 1220 South Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90015.

Am interested in purchasing a side arm for protection and practice — would like your advice. I prefer a large size, i.e., a .45 auto or whatever else you recommend.

If a .45 auto, what brand? What should be done for modification and by whom? Should it be stainless steel? Is the Browning the same quality as a Colt? What are the pros and cons to the .45 auto, .357, or 44?

J.F.R., Long Beach, California

A Since you favor a full-sized, heavy-duty auto pistol I think your best choice remains the Colt for reasons of cost if nothing else.

The pistol may need a trigger job and probably will need high visibility sights. These modifications can be effectuated by any competent gunsmith. Beyond these two, further modifications are a mater of taste and style.

• I would appreciate your opinion on the advisability of deactivating grip safeties. I have always disdained this practice, particularly for any pistol to be carried at "Condition-One" status. Unfortunately, I have very large hands and frequently have difficulty depressing the grip safety on my MK. IV deep enough to fire the pistol when working from the leather. Installing a flat mainspring housing, a la Gold Cup, has helped some but not enough.

Critics of 1911-type pistols have pointed out to me that John Browning himself must have felt the grip safety is unnecessary, as evidenced by its absence on his later P-35, but I still have my doubts. Incidentally, I do not believe that this can be mechanical difficulty with this particular MK. IV, since I have had this trouble with every Colt/Browning .45 auto I have used since reaching full size as a teenager.

People who favor pinning down safeties claim the pistol is no less safe than before; those who are against it claim it is dangerous: lots of opinion and belief, but nothing you can get your teeth into!

T.L.G., Chicago, Illinois

• The grip safety on the 1911 pistol was designed by John Browning to obviate the necessity of any other sort of safety device. In his view, the use of both the thumb safety and the grip safety is something like wearing a belt with your suspenders.

I pin my grip safety shut because my grip style does not always depress it. There are other systems such as building up the lower end of the unit with leather or other padding.

The issue is not major. The piece will not go off by itself.

I have been a double-action revolver man, .357 persuasion. But after reading your articles for a while, I got the .45 itch. After much turmoil and indecision, I decided to scratch. I still have my .357s but now own a used .45 government model.

I have made the following changes: stainless-steel Vega frame, oversized safety, new barrel bushing, and Pachmayr combat grips. What other changes would you suggest? I have been thinking about a good stainless barrel, adjustable sights, new recoil buffer, and possibly new barrel and slide, Commander length. Where would I order these and could I install them myself? Would you recommend the Nite-Site® ?

How long will a .45 barrel last? It doesn't look that strong.

I reload and would like your recommendations since this is new to me. My Ruger and S&W will shoot anything I put in the cylinder. But I have seen government models balk at reloads on the range.

I would like to get into combat pistol shooting, but I don't know of any range set up for this in my area. Could you recommend someone to whom I could write to get a range set up?

E.M.B., Moncks Corner, South Carolina

• The only modifications that are really necessary on a 1911 auto are a set of good sights, not necessarily adjustable, and a good trigger. Beyond these two, all further modifications are matters of personal preference. Some are necessary for some people and not for others. It is generally a good idea to leave your weapon as close to stock as possible so as to be able to use any gun that comes to your hand without being disconcerted by differences from your own personal piece.

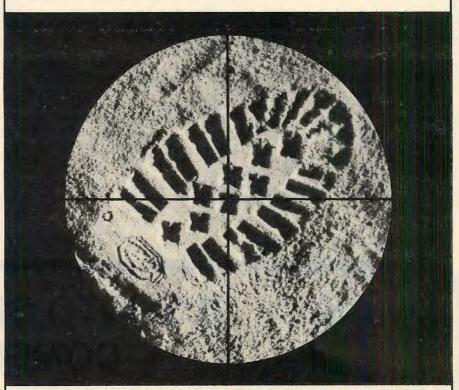
For a practice and plinking load, I recommend the Hensley and Gibbs Number 68 semi-wadcutter bullet and 4.5 grains of Bullseye. For social work I suggest the Hornady JTC 230 and 7.2 grains of Unique.

The barrel of the .45 auto pistol, stressed as lightly as it is, will last practically forever unless you smash it with a sledge hammer or allow it to rust out.

While my mind is not closed as to nightsights, we find here at the school that we do very well without them. The theory behind this is something we go into in detail in the basic course.

There is an active club up at Newport News (Lafayette Gun Club Combat Pistol Team, c/o Dave Arnold, 2 Tuckaway

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Court, Newport News, VA 23601) but if you wish to get organized closer than that I fear you will have to do it pretty much on your own.

HIS month Ken Hackathorn discusses the Bruce Nelson crossdraw pistol holster and the 9mm as the new U.S. military sidearm. He also gives a helpful hint to users of P-35 Browning auto self-defense pistols. Hackathorn, an international combat pistol competitor, is a graduate of Jeff Cooper's American Pistol Institute.

was recently asked if a holster is available for combat auto pistols that is truly practical, one that can be worn with comfort, used with maximum concealment, is accessible with either hand and secure enough to use even when parachute jumping. It should also be designed so it will not reduce skill in competition of an IPSC Match. Sounds like a tall order, maybe more than any particular holster design is capable of.

However, many years ago, Bruce Nelson designed just such a holster. It is known as the Bruce Nelson Crossdraw. If you meet many people who attended Jeff

Cooper's Gunsite School in the early days, you may find they purchased one of them. Nelson Crossdraws have become a bit of a status symbol.

You may note in many photos of the staff at Gunsite that this holster is often worn on the right hip for a standard directional draw. A positive point for this design is that it can be worn either way with success. As originally made by Nelson, this holster offers speed and comfort while seated or riding in a vehicle. Unlike many crossdraw holsters, the pistol butt is held in close to the body for concealment.

Nelson does not sell his leather work on a large scale. His design is made and marketed by two of the top custom leather makers in the U.S. today. Milt Sparks, Dept. SOF, Box 7, Idaho City, ID 86631, offers it as the No. 55 BN Cross Draw. It may be ordered with straight drop and sight rails. Gordon Davis, Dept SOF, P.O. Box 446, Arcadia, CA 91006, also makes a version of this holster as the No. 453 Liberty Cross Draw. Either will provide a fine all-around holster for bigframe combat autos.

HE U.S. military is again searching for a new service pistol. Since the U.S. has

given away, destroyed, and left behind vast numbers of 1911 service pistols in Southeast Asia, the military can now go to Congress and say, "We don't have enough to go around." The last effort to replace the 1911s in the mid-1950s failed because of the large quantity of .45 pistols still in stock.

But there has been no resupply of service-grade 1911 pistols since the end of World War II. So now, there is an excuse to seek out a new sidearm. In the aftermath of the McNamara Whiz Kids, it is no surprise that the new pistol is to be 9mm (9x19). After all, these mental giants gave us the M16 as a general-purpose battle rifle. The 5.56mm (.223) is such a feeble round that it is illegal for hunting deer in most states in the U.S. Now the U.S. military services are looking for a new 9x19 service pistol. Their favorite excuse for the caliber change is the need to conform with NATO.

Yeah, we paid a lot of attention to NATO when we junked the excellent 7.62 round for the 5.56mm. The "experts" tell us that a 9mm ball round at 1200 fps is much more lethal than a .45 at 800 fps. After all, the 9mm makes a larger cavity in a block of gelatin. How can you argue



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- 13. Entebbe Raid
- 14. Mors Ex Coelum
- (Death from the Heavens)
- 15. Armor M60 or Leopard
- 16. SE Asia War Games

Additional Designs Coming! with that? The new pistol is to be doubleaction, large magazine capacity, pushbutton magazine release, and of moderate weight.

There are a lot of guns in the testing program. Maybe the reason Smith & Wesson is redesigning their M59 with a steel frame and other functional improvements is more related to the future of this project than to the complaints about existing M59 autos now in the field.

It will be interesting to see what designs are picked and for what reasons, and if New England politics affect the outcome of some of the fine foreign models. Teddy Kennedy may come to the gun industry's aid yet — but will it help us get a good sidearm? I'm not holding my breath.

NE minor trick: if you shoot a P-35 Browning auto for self-defense, there is a small modification that can help if you wish to keep the pistol working. On the trigger there is a small pin that retains the magazine safety disconnector. Most serious pistol shooters remove the magazine safety. This way, the pistol may be fired without the magazine in the gun. It also improves the trigger pull. However, this small retaining pin has a nasty habit of drifting out to one side. It then prevents the trigger from moving to the rear far enough to fire the weapon. Bad scene. So, just punch the pin completely out of the trigger and leave the hole open. It could save your hide when the chips are down.





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by Chuck Taylor

CYCLIC RATES: SLOW vs FAST? ...

If you really want to get into a heated argument with anyone who fancies himself an "expert" on automatic weapons (just what is that mystical quality, anyway?), bring up this particular subject. Some will tell you that the fast rate is the "way to go," while others will viciously counter, "No way, man, that just wastes ammunition — the slow rate is the way to go!"

What difference does the cyclic rate make? Since anyone who knows anything about the subject of automatic weapons (and there aren't nearly as many around as you might think) will tell you that any auto-arm isn't intended to be fired in one, long cyclic burst, but rather in short controllable bursts of two to five rounds, who cares whether the three-round burst is delivered at 350 rpm or at 1500 rpm? Really ruminate on this now for a moment.

The sad fact of the matter is that a Class 3 license or DD214 doesn't in itself an expert make, although some real experts I know have one or both of these "credentials." In fact, I know a number of experts who never were in any army, but who know what they're talking about just the same. They know because they listen to those who have "seen the elephant," and they have the common sense and intelligence to obviate the BS and carefully evaluate the facts with methodical, piercing logic. It is only in such a manner that the real truths about anything will emerge.

Applying this theory to the slow vs. fast cyclic rate issue, at what do we arrive? Where do we go? Well, first of all, the statement that "this" cyclic rate is somehow better than "that" cyclic rate is emotional and illogical horsedung! (Pardon my French, but a little Anglo-Saxon vulgarity does wonders occasionally.) While it's true that a character with what we call "sticky trigger finger" will expend his ammunition faster than one who

doesn't, I can see no other category in which the cyclic rate issue enters at all. It is only if he isn't hitting his target(s) that it matters. And — if that is the case, who cares? The clown obviously doesn't know what he is doing and will shortly become deceased, agreed?

The point of all of this is that only to the person who doesn't know what he is about does the issue matter. One very amusing occasion of this type happened to me recently. I was demonstrating an Ingram M-10 to a group of students and one of the less adept members of the class said, "Sure, we all know that you can handle the Ingram — or any SMG, for that matter — but everyone knows that the Ingram, in particular, is inaccurate past 25 meters. So — since targets frequently appear past that range, the gun is worthless, except for demonstrations of firepower by experts."

I replied that I felt he was absolutely talking through his hat if he was really serious. He restated his opinion, and I then proceeded to hit a cal. .50 ammo can placed downrange at approximately 85 meters for 30 straight shots, semi-automatic, offhand, with the M10, without suppressor attached — supposedly the most difficult mode in which to handle the weapon.

I maintain my position — only the inept weapon operater causes ammunition consumption problems through unsatisfactory marksmanship and trigger control — both basic facets of automatic weapon technique. Remember, if a guy can't hit his mark, it matters little whether he misses it at 350 or 1200 rpm. If the gunner is hitting his targets, however, the bullet impact pattern is much better with a high cyclic rate! Examining the issue realistically and logically, which is more important? You choose, but the answer is obvious.

FOLDING STOCKS vs. FIXED STOCKS— ANOTHER "FUZZY" ISSUE ...

Another nebulous issue, particularly in the United States, seems to pertain to the folding stock on a full-caliber battle rifle. If I had a dollar for every time someone told me that he liked a telescoping stock on his HK-91, or FN-FAL, or M-14 (etc.), I would indeed be a wealthy man. Likewise for the Mini-14, AR-180, and HK-93, as well as the FN-CAL.

I had always thought it obvious that the folding stock, especially when mounted on a full-powered rifle, was intended to facilitate easier storage when issued to personnel who have a space-limitation problem. This occurs most often with vehicle crews, paratroops, aviators, and boat crews. In places such as an aircraft cockpit or tank wall-rack, space is at a premium and this niche is what the folding stocked rifle is designed to fulfill, nothing more.

The notion that one can really fire the damned thing effectively with the stock retracted is ridiculous, since, in that mode, one cannot hit targets reliably past arm's length range. It is, of course, presumed that the firer is shooting at his assailants because he intends to do them in, not merely make noise for its own sake.

Folding-stock rifles are usually either slightly heavier or only slightly lighter than the full-stocked models of the same gun. In the folding-stocked versions, the balance is negatively changed to a significant degree. Since the weight factor is not worth concerning oneself with, only the matters of balance and control seem to be of consequence. And, since both control and balance are markedly inferior with a folding-stocked rifle, what are we talking about?

Full-powered battle rifles are, if one considers the issue realistically, uncontrollable in fully automatic fire, a result of being used in a mode for which they were not intended. Certainly the act of ruining the weapon's balance and giving its operator less to hang onto doesn't improve the situation.

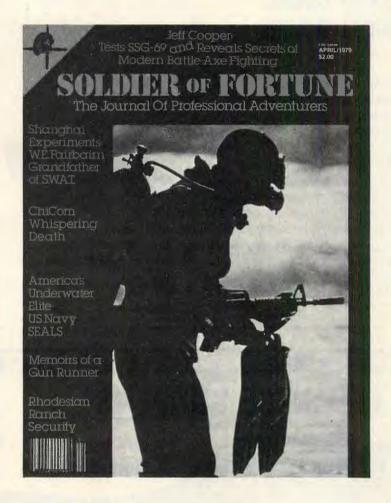
The argument that the folding-stocked rifle is more useful from a vehicle is also baloney. Subjectively, since one cannot hit anything with the stock retracted, it is reasonable to assume that one would extend the stock before using the weapon. If this is indeed so, then one would have ample time to bring his full-stocked rifle to bear — with more effective results since the full-stocked rifle handles in a superior manner to the folding-stocked one.

Further, the statement that a foldingstocked weapon carries easier doesn't hold water either. Since the rifle, in any configuration, is an offensive weapon, it is logical to presume that the user would be carrying it ready for action. If not, then why carry it at all? So, because the rifle is inefficient with the stock folded, we

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can assume the stock would be extended while the weapon is being carried, at least if the man carrying it knows what he is doing. If he carried the folding-stock weapon with the stock folded, it would be slower to bring into action than a full-stocked rifle. The full-stocked version handles better and is just as fast, if not faster, into action.

So, think about it before you spend your money and/or bet your life. If you have a genuine space problem, the folding stock is justified, but if not, I recommend taking a good, hard look at the problem. If the macho look is more important to you than weapon efficiency, fine, go ahead, but if you are interested in maximum weapon efficiency under realistic combat conditions, the full-stocked version is the logical choice. Assuredly, there will be those who disagree, and it is their right to do so. It is also their lives they are betting — isn't it?



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STEELE ON KNIVES

by David Steele

Letters meant for this column should be addressed to the author at Soldier of Fortune, Box 693, Boulder, Colo. 80306. If you want a personal, quick reply send a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

• In a recent issue of SOF I noticed a knife called the "Odin's Claw" which is of interest to me. Please send me some more info on this beauty (price, how to obtain, etc.).

I work in the inner city of Detroit and don't feel comfortable without my Gerber FS II in my pocket, my Gerber Mk. I in my left boot, and my S&W Model 60 with an extra speed clip. It is definitely a bummer to have to be armed in a free country, but in a nice town like Detroit you figure it out. I have depended on cold steel more than once to deter potential muggers, leaving the .38 Special for extreme situations only.

T.A.S., Madison Heights, Mich.

The "Odin's Claw" folding fighting knife is available from Wayne Goddard, 473 Durham Ave., Eugene, Oregon 97404. The price varies from \$200 to \$300, depending on size and options, although by the time you read this the prices may have risen slightly. A nonfolding version of the Odin's Claw is also available for around \$135. This is an excellent boot knife, and I am having one made up for myself.

The boot knife and handgun combination is excellent for serious social situations. I recommend the Airweight Smith & Wesson Bodyguard as an excellent pocket gun. If space is a real problem I recommend the High Standard doubleaction derringer. A double-action-only .25 automatic, like the old Le Français (also known as Manufrance), can also be very useful. I am often surprised that current manufacturers prefer the more complicated DA/SA automatic, like the Walther or the S&W M-39 design, when a pocket gun needs only a simple, smooth double-action trigger for close range accuracy.

• I have studied your book and I've followed your column from the beginning. While discussing folding lock-bladed knives you have gone so far as to recommend various brands or models such as the Gerber FS II, the Barry Wood Mark 2, and the Puma 265. I've never seen a Barry Wood or a Puma, but I find the Gerber to be somewhat flimsy in its



"Odin's Claw" folding fighting knife.

locking mechanism.

D.D.K., Portland, Oregon

Any rocker-locked design has some weakness at the tang juncture compared to a sheath knife. However, high quality folding hunters like the Gerber are much stronger in that regard than a typical switchblade. Some custom makers, such as Wayne Goddard, beef up this locking system substantially, but no folder is meant to take abuse (like using it as a prybar). The folder should be thought of as a "cut-and-run" emergency defense tool. When used properly, i.e., with a slash or thrust to the soft parts of the body, avoiding heavy bone masses, the folder makes an excellent fighting knife. However, if you have more than a casual expectation of danger you should equip yourself with a boot knife and a handgun. Ideally, the boot knife should have a substantial handle and a sharp, strong point, so that it can be used to penetrate clothing, equipment, or light bone. Incidentally, Bo Randall (Box 1988, Orlando, Florida 32802) says he is coming out with a new concealment knife called the "Guardian." It should be worth checking out in this regard, and we will have a report for you as soon as the knife is out of the prototype stage.

• I have long enjoyed and benefited from your writings. In my opinion, your reply to A.R.S. of South Africa (SOF, September 1978) was a masterpiece and typical of your always incisive assessments and suggestions.

I am going to buy a Gerber FS II (trailing point) in line with your repeated recommendations concerning potential defensive possibilities of this knife. Would I be wise to add a Flicket to the blade?

R.A.B., Medina, New York

A I have no trouble opening my FS II one-handed without the Flicket, but it might be a useful device if the knife were wet or one's hands were sweaty. Also, it's a good idea to check out all your dealer's

stock of FS IIs to pick one that has a particularly smooth opening (some may be a little stiff). Picking the right knife to begin with will save a lot of working in.

• What is your opinion of the Dan-D "Silencer"?

A.O., Sweden

A • The "Silencer" made by Dan Dennehy (Box 2F, Del Norte, Colo. 81132.) is a fine benchmade knife of the Sykes-Fairbairn design. The point, tang, and guard-juncture are much stronger than on the original S/F Commando knives. The handle is more substantial, with attractive micarta or wood materials. Workmanship and edge-holding are exceptional. The only drawback for you would be the high Swedish import duty; perhaps you can work something out with Dennehy.

• I enjoy your well-written column and, recognizing the "sensitive nature of the subject matter," would ask the following: are there any newsletters, correspondence clubs, magazines or the like devoted to knives and knife fighting? Have any novels or stories been published where the subject has been highlighted? My interest is not entirely personal as I have a friend in the U.K. who has had a variety of experiences in Europe. I am going to London soon and would appreciate any information you may give. The subject may be sensitive but one cannot deny the uniqueness of the men who master such an art.

S.J., Toronto, Canada

• There may be martial arts schools in your area which teach knife fighting. I would recommend the Filipino arts of Kali and escrima. There is also much to be learned from the Western art of saber fencing. The principal U.S. magazine on knives is American Blade (13222 Saticoy St., North Hollywood, Ca. 91605). Most of their material is from an historical or collector's viewpoint. No magazine has more on the subject of knife fighting than Soldier of Fortune. As far as books are concerned, I would recommend Cold Steel by John Styers and my own book. Secrets of Modern Knife Fighting (Phoenix Press, Box 693, Boulder, Colo. 80306).

Regarding novels, most of the ones I've read have been both brief and unrealistic on the subject of knife fighting. However, you might like the Matt Helm series by Donald Hamilton. Also, J.T. Edson, a British author who writes about the early American west, tries to be accurate on the subject. Bo Randall recommended Edson to me and gave me a copy of one of his novels, Ole Devil and the Mule Train. I find Edson's style to be a trifle wordy, but that may be due to his trying to imitate the chroniclers of the mid-19th century.



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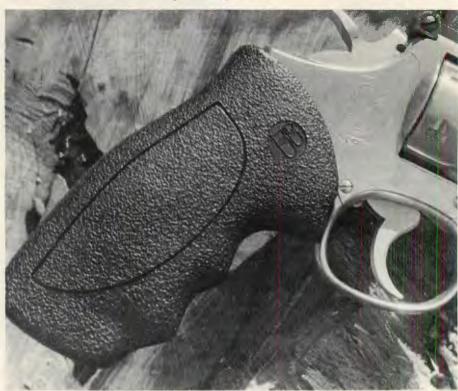
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by Jerry Ahern =



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HE same people who make the excellent Pro-Lite flashlight, mentioned in earlier editions of this column, are now making a handgun grip that is well worth investigating. The Bullet Grip, made of black urethane, features covered backstrap, finger grooves, and ambidextrous palm swells. Trim and well-planned for concealability, these grips also work well with cylinder-shaped speed loaders, unlike many factory grips. Their durable construction is obvious from even a casual physical inspection. The manufacturer also claims abrasion and solvent resistance. I tried a pair of Bullet Grips on a fourinch 66 I was using and found, aside from a tiny wobbling effect which can be compensated for with use of a filler such as epoxy glue, that the grips worked excellently. This wobbling was not serious and could have been left unattended. Most likely, as with many custom grips, this wobbling was not the fault of the grips themselves. On many revolvers, a slight machining difference in the grip frame, as the gun comes from the factory, can throw off any rigid custom grip.

Now available for only square- and round-butt K-frame Models, the Bullet Grips, retailing at \$9.95, represent a good value for any revolver shooter. Well-made by a reliable manufacturer, Bullet Grips are a positive addition to any revolver

wielder's accessories. For more information, write Bullet Industries, P.O. Box 3370, Santa Ana, CA 92703, U.S.A.

INDING a good knife is sometimes easier than keeping it sharp. To get the right edge and hold it, the right sharpening angle must be adhered to and the blade must be sharpened evenly. For general-purpose sharpening chores, the Crock Stick ceramic knife sharpener does a fine job. And it is simple. It consists of a wooden base and two 5/16-inch ceramic rods. The rods are placed in the wooden base. The angle at which they lock into place is just right for most knives, especially the utility type. Place the blade between the two ceramic rods and cut straight down and back, first on one stick, then the other, to get both sides of the blade. On the market for several years. the Crock Stick is also durable.

With special-purpose knives, check first that the sharpening angle will be correct. The Gerber Mk I boot knife, for example, requires the sharpening tool to be so low to the blade as to be almost parallel to it—one reason why the blade is not chrome-plated. It would be impossible to sharpen the knife without scratching the finish from the rest of the blade.

When not used for field knives, the Crock Stick can even be used to sharpen serrated and electric kitchen knives, so this is one weapon accessory the distaff side of the family can't really complain about. For more information on the Crock Stick, write Specialty Sports Supply Co., Inc., Dept. SOF, 111 E. LeRay Ave., Eagle Lake, MN 56024, U.S.A.

N the last several months, I've noticed a lot of implied criticism about how gun articles are written, test results compiled, and the like. It is evident that a number of people — and quite understandably — do not understand how a gun article comes to be, specifically those relating to new products or product variations.

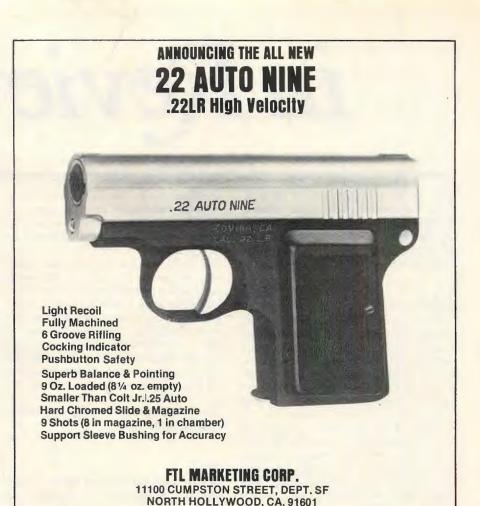
Writing about a new gun details quite a lot of original research and testing, not just one or two quick outings to the range, then a quick couple of bangs at the typewriter.

I've written about the Walther PPK/S here and elsewhere. But, of course, I've carried a PPK/S at one period of my life every day for two years. I've also read a great deal about the gun in various texts, studied model variations, made comparisions with other guns old and new of similar design, tried a variety of ammo with it, different carry methods, holsters, etc. With most guns I write about - as do most gun writers — I try to develop a familiarity so that the test report will be something meaningful. Sometimes, editors holler at me for securing a test gun and then not producing an article promptly, but at least I'm confident that what I say about the gun is true, based on prolonged experience.

As this is written, I've been using a Rogak P-18 for about 10 months on and off and like the gun. I know what little is wrong with the gun and what is right with it and said so recently elsewhere. In the past, I've praised the Colt Lawman MK III two-inch .357. A lot of people who haven't fooled with the revolver consider it Colt's basement gun - not true. But, of course, I've fired the Lawman two-incher quite a bit, experimenting with other guns of the type and even compared it to them. I remember quite some time ago writing on the Walther P-38K. Some reader wrote in to SOF that he thought the gun was laughable. He'd seen it. I, on the other hand, had tested it - for six months or better. The P-38K has too big a butt, but other than that is excellent.

There is a difference between firing it in one session and really using it. On the other hand, some readers write in who have extensively tested products — I recall reader David Taylor who recommended a flashlight which I later found to be excellent — and their opinions are invaluable. The crux of this, I suppose, is don't jump to conclusions about gunwriters — or anything else.







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in Review

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT BIBLE. Edited by Detective Robert A. Scanlon. South Hackensack, NJ: Stoeger Publishing Company. 1978. 480 pages. \$7.95. Review by Dana Drenkowski and John Donovan.

DETECTIVE Bob Scanlon, during his work as a police officer and weapons consultant, discovered there were no books available covering how-to information, directories of hard-to-find reference data, and/or accurate assessments and specifications of available weapons and equipment for the police officer or law enforcement agency. Finding information on weaponry, restraining devices, body armor, anti-bomb devices, surveillance equipment, and the like required wading through volumes of specialized magazines, books, and manufacturers' brochures. One was always faced with the possibility of missing information on a vital subject when preparing to purchase items vital to a policeman's job or survival.

The Law Enforcement Bible is Detective Scanlon's effort to bridge the information gap for those interested in law enforcement. The first 170 pages of this 480-page "bible" consist of 18 chapters on subjects important to police, including "Techniques of Police Forensic Photography," "Combat Shooting: the Art and Science," "The Art of Staying Alive: How to Arrest and Search Suspects and Transport Prisoners."

The chapters are presented as guidelines for general information. A very detailed 17-page reference section directs the reader to more in-depth coverage of particular fields. Of special interest is the seven-page guide to training films and video tapes available for police departments and law enforcement officers.

Several hundred pages provide specifications, prices, and addresses of where to purchase police equipment, ranging from batons and saps to guns, ammo, handcuffs, passive night-sight devices, body armor, helmets, and chemical disabling compounds, to name a few.

Scanlon's book is a handy research and reference tool — the kind that law enforcement officers and interested citizens might find helpful.

—Dana Drenkowski is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy who flew over 200 combat missions in

Southeast Asia. He has worked as a volunteer counselor in civic courts in Florida and Colorado and now plans to attend law school in either Colorado or California.

SOF Demolitions Editor John Donovan, whose review follows, has many years' police and military experience, having served as an officer in the U.S. Army Special Forces Reserve and as lieutenant in the Special Tactical Unit and captain of the Underwater Search and Rescue Team for the McLean County (Ill.) Sheriff's Department and as bomb disposal officer for Bloomington and Normal, Illinois. He now runs Donovan Dynamiting, a company specializing in blasting and underwater demoliton.)

HE Law Enforcement Bible is more than a little difficult to categorize. At some points I felt like pitching it in the closest garbage can and at other points I was extremely impressed. The good points far outnumber the bad.

The book is basically an excellent attempt to gather a wide variety of pertinent articles and knowledge into one container. It covers articles of interest ranging from operations equipment and decoy units to an article about railroad police.

The book tends to be more narrative than technical. Several articles are opinionated, giving the reader the impression there is only one "right" way to something. However, these are minor inconveniences when compared to its overall value.

Technical articles, such as "Forensic Photography," "The Police Shotgun," "Combat Shooting and Firearms Identification," are very well written. They are factual, well researched and written in layman's terms. I particularly liked "The Great Debate: Revolvers vs. Automatics." This article gives a brief history of both weapons and then gives pros and cons of each in an unbiased manner. Details of extensive surveys made by the New York P.D. render some very surprising results.

The catalog of police equipment at the end of the book, however, is almost totally worthless. I found very few items that any police officer, anywhere, could or would ever use. If someone has found a practical use for the "Iron Claw" or the "thumb cuff," I haven't heard of it. A better idea would have been to list only

the most practical, most used items of equipment and to discuss new equipment briefly.

Articles from most possible corners of the law enforcement field appear to be the forte of this new work. Items written about waterfront police operations, juvenile crime, railroad police, etc., give a bird's-eye view of many aspects of law enforcement that all police will find interesting as well as educational.

-John Donovan

THE LAST ADVENTURER. By Rolf Steiner. New York: Scribner's. 1978. 275 pp. \$9.95. Review by Leroy Thompson.

STRICTLY speaking, Rolf Steiner cannot be called a mercenary, since he never accepted jobs primarily for pay and in many cases received no pay at all. He is more akin to the 19th-century Philhellenes who fought in Greece's war for independence out of dedication to the cause rather than for monetary reasons.

Born in Munich during the early years of Hitler's Reich, Rolf Steiner originally planned to enter the priesthood, but finding that life dull, he joined the French Foreign Legion in 1950 at the age of 17. The chapters dealing with Steiner's experiences in the Legion are among the most interesting in the book, offering a firsthand view of the legionnaire's life in Indo-China and Algeria.

Finding the training harsh but not intolerable, Steiner did very well in the Legion. Even though the Legion was composed largely of Germans during these early postwar years, Steiner notes there was great loyalty rather than animosity towards France. National feeling only made the Germans or other nationalities try harder to excel in the Legion so that no one could say they were inferior to the others as soldiers.

Upon completion of training, Steiner's first posting was to the Foreign Legion's 13th Armored Division in Indo-China. Within four years, he had been wounded and decorated several times and had risen to sergeant, no mean accomplishment in the Legion where rank comes slowly. Steiner missed Dien Bien Phu because his battalion was in Hanoi at the time, but like all legionnaires, he felt the defeat strongly.

Next posted to Algeria, Steiner attended jump school and became a sergeant in

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the *Ier Regiment Etranger Parachutiste*, the famous first paras. During this period, Steiner served with many of the most famous Legion officers. He offers excellent insight into their personalities and leadership qualities. As did many other legionnaires, Steiner eventually became involved with the OAS and left the Legion after 10 years. Although twice arrested for his OAS activities, he was finally acquited, due partially to his excellent military record and partially to a sympathetic judge.

For five years, Steiner tried leading a civilian life in France, but he soon grew bored at the inactivity and began to hang out at a cafe where mercenaries were recruited. At first he went only to visit with old comrades from the Legion, but in late 1967 he was approached by some Ibos representing Biafra. Though at first he turned them down as he had so many others who had tried to hire him to fight for African states, the Ibos persisted and managed to convince Steiner that their cause was a just one. He was also encouraged by the French government which at that time was supporting Biafra in hopes of getting oil concessions.

Arriving in Biafra, Steiner found that the other white mercenaries were a pretty poor lot, many of them without prior military service. He has some especially harsh words for most veterans of the Congo who showed up in Biafra. Shortly, all the other mercenaries pulled out, leaving Steiner the only white serving with the Biafran army. He found early on that the Biafrans, though an intelligent and wellorganized people, were rabble militarily, and one of his first tasks was to give them some confidence and training as an army.

His two biggest problems were the Biafrans' extreme fear of tanks and the Biafran officers' poor leadership. They, much like Italian officers in North Africa during World War II, stayed comfortably to the rear. The former of these problems Steiner solved by designing a simple antivehicular mine and mining the approaches to Biafran positions, thus blowing up a substantial number of enemy tanks. The latter was countered by his infectious practice of leading from the front as he had learned in the Legion.

Finding the Biafrans direly needed an elite force for stiffening sectors under attack and for carrying out special missions, Steiner formed his own commando group and trained them along Foreign Legion lines. During this period, he began to think of himself as a Biafran citizen and accepted no pay other than food and lodging. His dedication carried over to his commandos, who were fanatically loyal to him.

As Steiner's successes mounted, a few other mercenaries began to drift in to join the cause, though in most cases their motives were less altruistic than Steiner's, and they demanded their pay each month. In discussing these men and their motives,

Steiner shows great perceptivity in analyzing why men become mercenaries and why he views himself as something much different.

Not content with fighting the Nigerians, the Biafrans were constantly involved in intramural squabbles within the army and government. Falling afoul of one government faction and the French secret service, Steiner was forced to leave Biafra, thus depriving them of their most effective military leader.

After leaving, he worked for a time arguing Biafra's cause in Europe. During this period he was offered numerous jobs ranging from Charles-Bronson-type rescue missions (including one to free Tshombe) to bodyguarding heads of state, but none appealed to him. Drawing on his German boyhood for an analogy, Steiner says people seemed to consider him the Otto Skorzeny of Africa. Despite his shoddy treatment by the Biafran government, Steiner remained loyal to the country and turned down overtures from the Nigerians to work for them or to incite his commandos to overthrow the Biafran government.

Steiner finally found a new cause in the South Sudan where, among other adventures, he became acquainted with Idi Amin. Most of his activities in the Sudan were nonmilitary. Realizing that before the South Sudanese could become an effective fighting force, they first had to be reasonably well fed and healthy, his earliest efforts were to develop agriculture and medical services. His primary military contributions consisted in solving tribal arguments which fragmented the South Sudanese army and establishing a central command and control.

When after about a year, Steiner left the Sudan, he was asked by a faction of the Ugandan government to give false testimony linking Idi Amin with a plot to overthrow the government. Refusing to become involved with this plot, Steiner was handed over to the Sudanese government and transported to Khartoum where he was tortured to try to get him to betray the South Sudanese. After weeks of ill treatment by the Sudanese Secret Police, Steiner was finally tried in a kangaroo court and sentenced to death, a sentence commuted to 20 years. Twenty years in a prison which made most Mexican jails look like honor farms, however, wasn't much better than death. After three difficult years, Steiner was finally freed through the intercession of West German authorities and went home to Germany for the first time in almost 20 years.

The Last Adventurer offers more than fire-fights and jungle commando raids, though these are present. It is a compelling reminder that to be a soldier of fortune involves not only fighting for whoever will pay the price but honor as well—a fact many Americans and others fighting for Rhodesia right now endorse fully.

The Last Adventurer is also a textbook for anyone hoping to go in and turn a backward people into an effective fighting force. Mere ability to lead men in combat is not enough — it may first be necessary to turn them into men. Rolf Steiner has great compassion and respect for the black African. For these reasons, he is still revered in those countries where he served, whereas most mercenaries are hated. In evaluating the chronicle of his life, one learns that Rolf Steiner is a true example of the Legion motto: "Honor and Fidelity."







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JANE FONDA, WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

REQUIEM FOR THE BOAT PEOPLE OF INDOCHINA

Guest Editorial by Nick Uhernik

FISHERMEN of Thailand are afraid to cast their balance-of-power concepts that must eventually nets off the eastern gulf shores. Too often their catches have contained more human remains than

Near Malaysia, in one incident alone, over 100 Vietnamese perished when their boat capsized in the deep and violent waters. Fleeing their homeland and its communist victors, the refugees never had a chance.

Free countries of Southeast Asia are sympathetic to their plight, but helpless to act. They have already taken in over 350,000 people, and room is running out. Indonesia and the Philippines have set aside entire islands for the homeless, and Malaysia alone has granted over 55,000 boat people sanctuary from the barbarous regime of Hanoi's Pham-Van-Dong.

Americans, who abandoned Saigon during her final nightmare, continue to operate vast resettlement programs, but many U.S. citizens remain unmoved by the refugees' plight, and want the flow of Orientals to stop. The fact that 140,000 men, women and children have died trying to escape South Vietnam since its surrender in 1975 seems to fall on deaf ears.

penalties aimed at "refugee racketeers" who, for singer Joan Baez and poet Allen Ginsberg have \$500 a boatload, had been sneaking the Vietnamese into Hong Kong harbor. (Coming from a country where the average school teacher makes \$28 a month, the amount is a king's ransom.) Now ships' captains are unloading their human cargoes at sea and paying the owners of Chinese fishing boats large sums of money to smuggle the refugees onto the already overcrowded island.

To compound the problems and confusion, over 400,000 refugees have poured into Vietnam from Laos and Cambodia during the last three years. The red pot of gold at the end of the communist rainbow has mysteriously failed to appear. What has come of the promises - promises fueled by American war protesters — for a better life under northern rule?

Though embarrassed at the defeat of the "greatest" country on earth by guerrillas in Vietnam, American politicians continue to develop deceptive

lead to the domino-downfall of free Asia.

The going rate for bribing your way out of Ho-Chi-Minh City? Two thousand U.S. dollars for an adult, half that for a child. A high price that families, exhausted by nearly 40 years of fighting, gladly pay for the prospects of peace and freedom only to drift aimlessly across the sea, a people without a country. The communists outlawed maps, compasses and navigational aids long ago, and this additional torture lends itself to endless confusion as the Vietnamese search for another home.

Tourists skimming along the waves in their hydra-boat, on the way to Macao for an evening of gambling, were shocked to see the body of a dead infant thrown from the deck of a listing freighter into the murky water. Some of the tourists snapped pictures for their scrapbooks back home, and their ship continued unabashed on its cruise.

Even former Viet Cong leaders have found the communists from the north to be vicious liars. The population of Saigon's Chi Hoa Prison, once heavily criticized by outsiders for its abject squalor and overcrowding, has multiplied five times under Authorities in Hong Kong have stiffened their communist supervision. Former protestors like been turned away by the Vietnamese authorities. Hanoi no longer listens to them.

> HERE was once an American actress who trouped across Laos and North Vietnam, pointing an accusing finger at our POWs and lecturing to news media and all who would listen on the evils of the imperialist running dogs of the U.S.A. Oh, how lovely it would be, she promised, if the South Vietnamese people would open their arms to their brothers in Hanoi! The communists, keeping a low profile, sat back and grinned at the actress, leaving all the work to their new puppet. Thousands have died, and the final chapters of the city of sorrow have yet to be written....

Where are you now, Jane Fonda?







FAST OR FATAL

Yank Magazine, July 2, 1943, ran a short article (p. 19) depicting a three-man .50 cal. machine-gun team leaping from a halftrack (tank destroyer) with tripod, gun, and ammo. They got the weapon set up and firing in a record 6-4/5 seconds!

Soldier of Fortune Magazine feels the modern day military should be able to top that with practice. We issue the following challenge: A special surprise to the first

three-man team to accomplish the same feat closest to the 6-4/5 seconds. It must be done from a deuce-and-a-half with the tailgate up. The vehicle must be moving with men completely inside. Upon a complete stop, time starts and stops on the first live round fired or dummy round snapped.

The tripod must be separate from the gun. A full-weight ammo box must be used with the links properly fed into the

weapon. We will need as witnesses to claim the fastest time a senior NCO (E-7 or above) and officer (captain or above) to vouch for the time. Please send your photos, names and other pertinent information and we will publish some teams in action and their techniques. Well, guys, it's your show — let's see your stuff.



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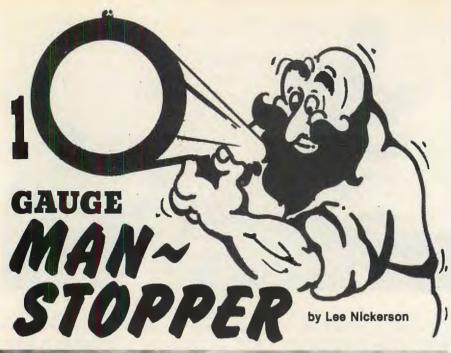
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Nickerson's stubby block-buster special in all its glory.

RECENTLY I decided to retire my 46-year-old Model 11 Remington scatter gun, as it was becoming a keepsake. Feeling the need for a practical replacement, I decided to look for a gun I had never owned before, something economical yet big. With that in mind, I began to think of the 10-gauge magnum, the most powerful shotgun in the U.S. today.

During the process of selection, I looked at three weapons: Ithaca's Mag-10 Roadblocker, Marlin's Super Goose 10, and H&R's Model 176. Currently, Ithaca's 10-gauge is the only one available in a self-defense model, a three-shot semi-auto with a 20-inch barrel. The Roadblocker has two problems: size and price. Empty it bends the scale at 10 pounds, eight ounces, and it costs a bundle: over \$400

Marlin's bolt-action 10-gauge runs in the neighborhood of \$160, but it has a bulky receiver, a protruding clip that holds only two shots, and I've had feeding problems with bolt-action shotguns before.

The 10-gauge I decided to go for was the H&R single-shot Model 176. It cost under \$80 and had the thin receiver I was looking for.

My next step was to have the massive 36-inch barrel cut down to self-defense size. I drove over to Pachmayr Gunshop in Los Angeles and asked to have the barrel cut back to my 18½-inch specifications and to have the original brass bead reattached. The man behind the counter smiled with expectation; said he'd never seen a sawed-off single-shot 10-gauge before. It cost \$22.50 to have the massive tube shortened.

When I coupled the stubby barrel to the receiver, I nodded my head with approval; the gun now looked brutal and compelling. With its new size, the weight was centrally located with the balance right at the trigger guard. It pointed fast!

Next I added removable sling swivels and an adjustable military-type sling which had a wide adjustment range. I also sent for a five-shot ammo holder from Perry's Ammo Sling in Georgia. It cost a mere \$3.99. With a \$125 overall investment, I took the 10-gauge into the forest for a trial run on lifesize combat silhouettes.

Knowing the destructive power of a shotgun from zero to 20 feet, I decided I'd test this gun's potential at 15 and 25 yards.

Choices of shot are limited in the 10-gauge unless you hand load — then the sky's the limit! Not having a shotgun reloader, I elected to use Remington Express 3½-inch No. 4 and Federal's BBs. To date, Federal is the only company I know of that offers copperplated BBs, and when your life is on the line, you must consider metal penetration; lead shot won't do the job. I counted approximately 100 BBs and 270 of the No. 4 shot. One thing for sure, at \$18 a box, this stuff isn't plinking ammo.

I proceeded to hang the silhouettes over a thin copper wire stretched between two trees. Then I loaded the ammo sling up with No. 4 rounds, dropped a cartridge into the chamber and paced off 25 yards. As I turned, I envisioned an attacker approaching, ready to kill. I immediately aimed at the 7 on the silhouette and touched off a round.

A huge yellow ball exploded from the barrel in the growing dusk. The recoil was equivalent to my .458 Winchester magnum. When I inspected the silhouette, I was surprised to count 176 holes in the black. Moving up to 15 yards, the gun further demonstrated its awesome potential; 220 pellets riddled the silhouette, a death-dealing hail of lead.

Next came the BBs at 15 yards. The results screamed knock-down power; 89 BBs drilled through the man-sized target. And at 25 yards, this 18½-inch-barreled 10-gauge with no choke still peppered the silhouette with 63 BBs out of a 100.

At close range, this 10-gauge throws out an incredible 875 grains of lead, equivalent to four slugs from a .45 ACP. Nothing to sneeze at.

But is one shot enough, you may ask? Well, I experimented speed loading from the ammo sling and was getting follow-up shots on pine cones and tin cans in short order, though my shoulder was done in after about 20 rounds — the weapon is a real bruiser to shoot. No doubt a slip-on recoil pad would help tame this animal down.

Empty, the stubby 18½-inch 10-gauge weighs only eight pounds, four ounces. And this gun is versatile, too! It will shoot less expensive, less punishing 2-7/8-inch ammo, and 32- and 36-inch barrels are available from H&R for about \$45. With one stroke of the screw driver, one can have a goose gun converted into a fast-handling, self-defense weapon.

So, If you've been thinking of an addition to your weapons collection, something that'll eliminate opponents with one devastating blast, this modified 10-gauge magnum might be the gun for you. It's versatile, compact, and brutal to shoot, and a guaranteed conversation piece when friends gather around the fire.

REJOINDER

LEE Nickerson's idea of the ultimate alley cleaner sounds better than most, not so good as some. Like most Americans, myself included, Nickerson subscribes to the "bigger-isbetter" theory. And bigger is better—up to a point. If you exceed that point, you can actually do yourself a disservice. Let me explain.

Certainly most people would agree that anyone choosing a .22 for a selfdefense weapon ain't pulling a full load of cars. But going to the other ex-



Federal BBs at 15 yards show stopping power at man-sized target.

treme can be counterproductive. In his article, Nickerson compares his modified Model 176's recoil with that of his .458 Winchester magnum. The obvious problem here is flinch. If you are limiting yourself to one shot, as Nickerson has, the *last* thing on your mind should be fear of flinching.

The second drawback of using a 10-gauge on humans is that it's unnecessary. A high-brass 12-gauge (not a three-inch magnum) is a match for any human. Why subject yourself to "a huge yellow ball exploding from the barrel..." when there's no advantage? A kill is just as good as an overkill.

Ammunition availability is the third problem. If you plan to keep the gun under your bed, there's no problem. But if you're going to be traveling, 10-gauge shells aren't usually found at the corner store.

Nickerson's fourth conceptual error was in limiting himself to one shot. Single-shot weapons are manufactured today primarily for hunters. The reason is that hunters want a challenge. If you miss your game, your stewpot may go empty that night. And that's what

makes hunting a sport. Otherwise you might as well have the game in a cage. But choosing a single-shot for defense is folly. Granted, one shot is usually enough. But what about faulty ammo? What about multiple targets? A double-barreled shotgun or a pump or even a revolver gives you options, but a single-shot is very unforgiving.

Another factor against the Model 176 is its weight. Eight pounds for one-shot capability just ain't efficient.

For years, SWAT teams and military units have used the venerable 12-gauge with success. The old saying, "If it works, don't fix it," applies here. If you need a special-purpose weapon, fine, just don't recommend it for general use.

On balance, the Model 176 is inexpensive and if you are on a limited budget, it might fill your needs.

Don't get me wrong, I'd rather have Nickerson and his cannon beside me when the balloon goes up, than some clown who thinks he can shoot the eye out of a gnat with his .25 derringer. — N.E. MacDougald







You will have only seconds to predict and react to your opponent's moves. Once he has started his attack, he has committed himself to a follow-through. Judge your distances. React quickly and aggressively. Once your distance is closed follow through with your technique.

Countering straight-line attack: Step 1. Step to the outside 45 degrees out of line of attack.

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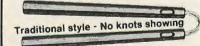
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N attacking weapon can follow two basic paths — a straight line or a circle, the only two geometric paths possible. Although the two paths may be combined, circular and linear movements are the only trajectories possible.

When dealing with edged weapons, you must remember a knife thrust can be delivered as a stab or a slash, i.e., a linear or circular movement. In a stab, the weapon follows a line, in a slash an arc. When you understand that once your opponent has committed himself to one trajectory — a stab or a slash — you can disarm him by intersecting that trajectory.

If your opponent commits himself through body movement to a straight-line attack, you can predict where the followthrough of that attack will end. Then, by sidestepping that trajectory, you can place yourself in a position not only to avoid but to counter the attack.

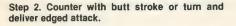
Here, as in most fighting-for-keeps techniques, four basic steps hold the key. These steps are:

- 1. Get out of the line of attack.
- 2. Redirect the attack.
- 3. Neutralize the weapon.
- 4. Neutralize the opponent.

You will have only seconds to predict and react to your opponent's moves. Once he has started his attack, he has committed himself to a follow-through. Judge your distances. React quickly and aggressively. Once your distance is closed, follow through with your technique.









Step 3. Using attacker's forward momentum against himself, pull him forward onto a side-thrusting side-kick. Kick can be delivered to various targets, including the knee. As kick is delivered, pry weapon out of attacker's hands.



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CZECH-75 PISTOL

9MM BOHEMIAN RHAPSÖDY

by Chuck Taylor



Cz-75 is based on best design features of both Browning P-35 and SIG P-210.

Sooner or later someone had to be the one to do it. My only regret is that the "someone" had to be a communist. I mean, frankly, it is somewhat embarrassing to me to admit that the best conventionally designed pistol was designed and is being marketed by the Czechs!

Big talk, isn't it? Well, the CZ-75 pistol, even though it is a 9mm parabellum, lives up to this description. It feels the best in my hand of any pistol I have ever used, and, although I'm not about to run out and retire my Colt .45 auto and replace it with the CZ-75 (we all know

how I feel about 9mm pistols and stopping power!), I would say the Czech-75, as it has become known, would be a most interesting development in a big caliber, say 10mm.

There is much more. How about solid, high-visibility sights, a beautifully placed



Front view illustrates lack of recoil spring plunger similar to P-35 Browning. Solid front of slide where plunger would normally be aids in simplifying disassembly — fewer parts to deal with.

Tang of gun is well shaped and just long enough to obviate "hammer bite," while not catching on clothing.





Extractor is pivot and pinned type, similar to both SIG and Browning designs.



LEFT: Magazine release button is in exactly the right place for effective manipulation. trigger pull (in single-action mode) is smooth and polished.

BELOW: Note similarity to Browning P-35 and SIG P-210.



CZECH-75 PISTOL



thumb safety, nicely designed magazine release button, bevelled magazine well, and excellent finish.

It does indeed have all of these things, but not without reason. As we all know, communists have the tendency not to be particularly imaginative — I suppose it goes along with the suppression of individuality in the system.

So, with great aplomb, the Czechs copied the best features of the Browning P-35 and SGI P-210. Far from being a detriment to either of these fine guns — imitation is the highest form of flattery — the CZ-75 turned out to be a superior gun to both. At least the Reds had the common sense to copy the right features.

The thumb safety is in exactly the right place for fast, effective engagement, and the grip tang protrudes only far enough to prevent hammer "bite" but remains cleanly shaped and short enough to preclude catching on clothing, a problem with one of the latest American attempts to produce such a weapon. Yet, there is a no-grip safety, such as found on the M1911 series, which is all right with me too.

The magazine is similar to the P-35 Browning mag, but so what? It works.

The extractor is of the pivot and pinned variety, again copied from the Browning idea, and the lack of a recoil spring

plunger at the front of the slide, too, smacks of Browning.

One other thing, the gun is a double action. Yeah, yeah, I know what you are now thinking: Taylor hates double-action autos. How can he like this one? Well, the answer is simple: The DA auto, although totally unnecessary, in my opinion, is here to stay. It is a fact that there are a great many people in the world who are scared to death of "cocked and locked" carry. I am not saying this is right, but I am saying that the phenomenon is with us. Hell, even a number of experts will admit that they just can't bring themselves to carry their .45s cocked and locked.

Of course, to carry a .45 auto in "condition two" (hammer down on a loaded round in the chamber) is about as fast to bring into action as if you left it at home. You may as well carry a wheelgun if you cannot feel comfortable in carrying the auto in the way for which it was designed. In fact, you would be immensely better off to do so.

The CZ-75, by possessing the DA feature, is meant to appeal to those who cannot face the condition-one carry. This includes most of the police chiefs and military procurement men in the world, unfortunately. But — by having a thumb safety and condition-one override, which it does, the CZ-75 can also be carried cocked and locked! This is the first pro-

ABOVE: Although double-action, Cz-75 also has condition-one override. Thumb safety for cocked and locked carry is perfectly located for fast, efficient use.

BELOW: Magazine well is nicely shaped and slightly bevelled for fast insertion of fresh magazine upon reload.



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duction gun that possesses such a feature. Before, in order to have the best of both worlds, one had to submit to conversion work as offered by a number of - some good, some not so good - gunsmiths. The Czech-75 comes out of the box that

The trigger is polished smooth and narrow, the way a DA trigger should be to give the firer a feel for the gun and trigger. and the slide lock is very well designed and located to allow maximum accessability to the firer.

As stated, the action is copied from the Browning short recoil system — partly and the Petter design of the P-210. The piece is easy to field strip and everything is accessible for cleaning as required.

The DA trigger pull on the example I tested was about 10 pounds and the singleaction pull, four pounds — and crisp. I had no trouble shooting eight-second "Presidentes" with it with perfect scores, because the 9mm has virtually zero recoil and handles well.

Accuracy was superb, making two- to three-inch groups at 50 meters no problem. The test example also fed all of the ammunition on hand for the testing session, admittedly mostly ball, but that's what belongs in auto pistols. The semirepresentative sampling of SP and HP ammo we had also went through the gun without a hitch.

By now, you may want one of these weapons in the worst way. Forget it, those of you who reside in the United States. Because the gun is made in Czechoslovakia (a communist country), import is not, at least at this time, possible. You, like me, can live with the consolation that the 9mm parabellum is not one of the standard calibers of communist bloc nations, therefore the CZ-75 is not used by their armed forces. Strange, isn't it? The best conventionally-designed pistol in the world, and they don't even use it themselves! It's strictly an export item.

Functioning proceeded without a single problem for the entire test, which consisted of 300 rounds. Moreover, Jeff Cooper advises me that he has seen a number of these weapons in use by his students in Europe and the guns have always functioned well, as far as he knows.

I think that a number of U.S. manufacturers would do well to abandon their attempts to "make a better mousetrap" in the form of trying to beat Colt at their own game of making M1911 .45 autos. Instead, they would do well to scale up the CZ-75 to a big caliber and manufacture that instead. Obviously, the communists aren't going to say anything about it, and no legal arrangements are violated.

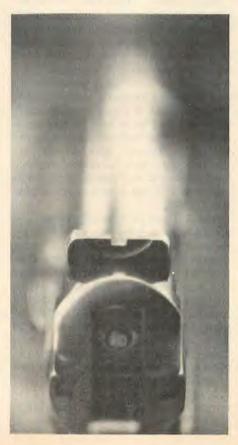
Food for thought, isn't it?





ABOVE: Magazine is double-column, squeezed into single column for feeding, a la P-35 Browning.

BELOW: Sights on out-of-the-box gun are fixed but highly visible, robust in design and construction.



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Match winner, Ron Lerch of Valencia, California. Ron is shown here getting into the action which brought him a score of 1816-62 and the Bianchi Pistol Tournament Cup.



OHN Bianchi, president of Bianchi Gunleather, decided some time ago to sponsor a prestigious pistol match. He desired to make competitive practical pistol shooting noteworthy enough to bring handgun shooting to the attention of the non-gun-owning public, believing if the media can see this activity in a proper relation to tennis and golf, then the future for pistol shooting in the United States will improve.

Bianchi's concept could only be successful if big money rewards for skill were offered and the courses of fire were challenging and offered spectator appeal. He talked over his idea with some gun industry leaders and got their support. With the aid of the shooting sports industry, he set out to make his idea reality.

When Bianchi discussed the idea with his friend, Ray Chapman, the ball began to roll. Chapman offered the use of his practical training range in Columbia, Missouri. He designed the four basic courses of fire and with the aid of his associates at the Ray Chapman Academy the tournament began to take shape.

On May 3, 4, and 5, 1979, the Ray Chapman Academy Range in Columbia, Missouri, hosted the first annual Bianchi Cup Invitational Pistol Tournament. At John Bianchi's request, the course of fire had to be equally fair to revolvers and auto pistols, with the courses selected such that representatives of various pistol shooting disciplines could compete fairly without giving any one group an overall advantage. NRA bullseye shoters, police PPC competitors, and IPSC pistoleros were invited to take part. Ingraved invitations were sent out to select top-flight members of each group, and 103 shooters attended this first annual tournament.

Chapman's courses were designed for maximum benefit to precision shooting. Each of the four different matches consisted of 48 rounds. Maximum point value per shot was 10, making a 480 possible for each match. Chapman chose the basic IPSC silhouette for his target; however, the 10 ring was only eight inches in diameter, with another 12-inch circle around it worth eight points. Anything

outside this scoring ring but still on the target was worth five points. Just hitting the silhouette was not good enough. Competitors literally had to shoot for the center or go down the tubes with their score. No speed loading, running, or other forms of activity were required.

Match One — "Practical" — consisted of various combinations of single-, double-, and triple-shot combinations on two silhouettes located three feet apart. Weak-hand shooting was also included at the 10-yard stage. The various combinations were fired again at 15, 25, and 50 yards. Time limits were quick but not overly difficult. Real skill was needed to shoot fast precision shots on one target and then shift to the other, repeating the same shot combination. Well-known top IPSC shooter from southern California, Ron Lerch, won Match One with a score of 461.

Match Two - "Barricade" - was designed with the PPC discipline in mind. Competitors had to engage targets from first one side of the barricade, then again in a second string from the other side. Most shooters shot their strong side first, then fired the weak-hand side second in each stage. The barricades were located at 10, 15, 25, and 35 yards. On each stage, six rounds had to be fired on one target on to the side of the barricade chosen. At 10 yards, shooters were allowed six seconds. With each increase of distance another second was added. Ron Lerch also won this match with a respectable score of 476.

Match Three — "Moving Target" — proved interesting for those with little experience shooting at a moving object. A silhouette moved first right to left, then back left to right for the next string. Distances were 10, 15, 20, and 25 yards. At each distance, contestants fired 12 rounds. At 10 yards it was six shots per pass, three rounds per pass at 15 and 20 yards, and two shots per run at 25 yards. Current Southwest-Pistol-League-champion-quality pistolero Mickey Fowler won Match Three with a score of 464.

Match Four — "Falling Plates" — proved the real Bianchi Cup killer.

BIANCHI SOF Staffer on

Ken Hackathorn

Although some really impressive performances were seen, many top guns went to hell on the plates. Six eight-inch steel plates were placed one foot apart edge to edge. They sat on a platform four feet up from the ground. Contestants were allowed only one shot per plate. They fired at 10 yards in six seconds, a pattern then repreated for a total of 12 shots, with the shooter moving back to 15, 20, and 25 yards. Each backward move of five yards gave the contestants one extra second time limit

Sounds easy, looks easy — but it really humbled the masses. I know those little eight-inch steel plates can really make a fool of me — they did on May 4th. Dave Bates of the Connecticut State Police put forth an amazing display of nerves and skill when he shot the plates with only one miss in 48 shots. His score of 470 was more than good enough to take first place in Match Four.

Before the Bianchi match got under way, each group of shooters discussed its outcome. NRA 2600 shooters felt the match favored the PPC crowd because of their practice of starting from the holster, and their shooting faster time limits than the three-gun shooter. PPC competitors felt the IPSC guns were favored, due to the moving target and very quick shooting in Match One. Free-style (IPSC) pistoleros were concerned that PPC competitors were favored, due to their skill at shooting very tight groups in comparable time limits.

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Fifth-place winner Tom Campbell models his now-famous chest holster and custom steel M59.

MATCH the Scene

Each group learned a great deal. As a group, PPC shooters were far better precision shooters in this affair. U.S. IPSC shooters include some really fine pistol shots in their ranks. Those present at the Bianchi Cup really proved their skill in the realm of pistolcraft.

A point openly broached by many is the fact that the Bianchi Cup is not an IPSC match. The change in target scoring, plus power factoring in scores, seems the most obvious difference. Lack of speedloading and holster rules might inflame some. Although the IPSC-doctrine purist will be aghast, he should make no attempt to confuse the Bianchi Match with an IPSC match. It is simply a damn fine pistol match where top-flight shooters from various disciplines can come together and visit, exchange ideas, and, most important, get a chance to see what the other fellow is about. As an attempt to bring the bullseye, PPC, and IPSC shooters together under one set of rules and competition standards, John Bianchi and Ray Chapman should be congratulated.

Police officers from local, state, and federal departments attended. Regardless of background, these men went away pleased with the course layout. The balance of shooting skills was very even, with no one event simpler than the others. My and many other shooters' experience was to shoot very well on three of the events, and then fall apart on one. As always, the high level of stress caused by major shooting events made many lose valuable

points. Because of the predominance of skilled shooters, anyone finishing in the top 25 had good reason to feel good.

Ron Lerch was first-place winner overall. For his excellence, Lerch took home \$1,500 in cash, plus nearly \$1,000 in prizes. Second place went to Mickey Fowler, also a southern California championship shooter. Fowler had problems in his first match, falling plates. At 25 yards on his first string, he forgot to reload his pistol. That mental malfunction cost him 50 points. However, he demonstrated championship skill when he went on to complete the tournament without letting his mistake ruin his effort.

For a man to not give up but keep on performing takes a special skill that makes practical shooting a real challenge for everyone. His "mental set" is important in competition as well as in real-life encounters. Mickey Fowler won \$750 and a custom M-29 .44 mag revolver.

Third place overall was taken by a very good PPC shooter, Mike Murray of Upper Arlington, Ohio. Murray shoots a "martial-art" style combat pistol, combining his skill with teaching a new technique. He performed professionally with his wheelgun in every respect.

Dave Bates of the Connecticut State Police is one of the top Northeast PPC competitors, who had a fine aggregate in his first three matches but had problems with the moving target. He held down fourth place with ease, and I imagine he will be giving the movers plenty of practice next year. Tom Campbell of Smith & Wesson captured fifth place. His IPSC program performance is well known and he easily ranks as one of the top IPSC competitors in the world.

Over half of the top 20 shooters at the Bianchi Cup are well known IPSC shooters. A little less than half of the remaining top 20 are popular PPC contestants. Next year those numbers may very well change to more PPC people in the money. I noted that about one-third of the shooters were using revolvers, mostly custom PPC wheelguns, usually carried in Bill Rogers' plastic break-front holsters.

The overwhelming choice seemed to be the Colt .45 government pistol. They came in all sizes and shapes. Most IPSC types had guns modified by various name gunsmiths. Others used stock autos. Target shooters usually shot their target grade .45 pistols. Many hardball target autos were seen in holsters that allowed for the high sights. The dominant auto holster maker was Gordon Davis. The rest seemed evenly split between Milt Sparks and Bianchi.

Many noted revolver shooters from across the nation had left their wheelguns at home because they had been told they could only win "combat shoots" with a .45 auto pistol. Firing the big .45 hurt some of them, since they were not familiar with the auto's handling characteristics. They will undoubtedly return next year with their revolvers.

For the 1980 Bianchi Cup, PPC shooters will have to learn to shoot faster and get gun handling down better. IPSC pistolmen are going to have to spend more time learning the keys to precision shooting and getting back to basic marksmanship points. With the first place prize for 1980 at \$5,000 plus prizes, many more people in the handgun shooting fraternity are going to be setting their sights to win this tournament. This year's Bianchi Cup gave away over \$20,000 in cash and prizes. Next year's increase will make the match even more desirable to attend.

Columbia's social atmosphere was most cordial. Unlike many pistol matches, held on rather spartan ranges, the Bianchi Cup was conducted with real class, with the Columbia Hilton Inn as match headquarters. Cocktail parties and hospitality rooms were provided by Bianchi Leathergoods and Colt Firearms, giving the ladies opportunities to visit and realize that pistol matches need not always be affairs conducted on dirty, dusty, remote ranges.

Bianchi provided each competitor with a handy shooter's accessory kit for carrying guns and gear to and from the range. Each person was required to wear a name tag at all times. Thus, only properly identified persons were permitted on the range and to social affairs.

Continued on page 91

BAYVIA OF BLOOD NEAR THE END IN SAIGON

by Nick Uhernik

As we ran down that back alley in Saigon, dodging honking taxis and vaulting over fallen street vendors, my mind raced back to those days in the MP Academy. If only I had not daydreamed through the brief Vietnamese language classes. Now I found myself running in and out of a dozen sputtering Hondas, a .45 pistol in one hand and my pocket translator in the other. The crowd seemed to spring back in horror at the sight of us: two American MPs and two Vietnamese military policemen, guns drawn, chasing a large middle-aged Chinaman down Tu-Do Street. Twice I took aim on his broad back, only to lose sight of him as he fled into another maze of tenements.

I fumbled with the small black dictionary as I ran - was it "Dung lai!" or "Coi ao!" that fit this situation? I knew one phrase meant "halt!," the other "undress!," and it sure wasn't a bungalow whore we were chasing! The man had robbed an American civilian of his briefcase and had shot a pursuing traffic police-

I brought up my automatic, when one of the Vietnamese fired a round into the man's back...

My overweight partner soon dropped out of the foot chase, leaving me to keep up with the two agile QCs who were slowly gaining on the big hood. We soon came upon the Saigon River's banks and I was confident that I had located the correct phrase. The Chinese, finding himself at a dead end, abandoned the briefcase and prepared to dive into the swollen brown current. I brought up my automatic and was about to yell out an order (after rehearsing the correct pronunciation in my mind), when one of the little QCs popped up in front of me.

"Hold it, asshole!" he called out to the suspect in a calm voice, firing one round into the man's back at the same time. The burly Chinese flew like an empty tin can

into the river, and the Vietnamese both roared with laughter.

The QC who had not gotten off any shots directed a fishing boat to drag in the body. He then walked over to his partner and counted out a thousand piastre (about two U.S. dollars), and patted his friend on the back. They then walked over to me, and after collecting my "debt' for not getting off any shots, started back toward the jeep. I grinned and shook my head slight- . ly, trying not to act lost in front of the growing crowd. I retrieved the muddy briefcase and followed the QCs as they laughed their way back to Tu-Do Street.

Dusk settled swiftly over Saigon. Though it was the eve of the cease-fire and off-duty MPs at Pershing Field felt obligated to celebrate, the hot night air seemed to press in on us, a constant reminder that we should not drop our guard against the darkness. Flares continually drifted above the edge of the city, and the drone of cruising gunships could be heard below the clouds, yet somehow there was a feeling of helplessness against the terrorists

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who lurked beyond the "bamboo curtain."

"You have never lived until you have almost died..."

I had just found a seat at the bar in the camp's NCO club and had settled back to listen to the first sergeant recite his nightly version of "...If you mix police work with women, you can't do justice to either..." when Charlie Company's captain burst through the doors and began choosing "volunteers" for the graveyard shift's town patrol. Though I had just completed a sweat-soaked 12 hours on day shift, I couldn't help but be inspired by the banner hanging over the small stage where the Vietnamese band was playing:

"YOU HAVE NEVER LIVED UNTIL YOU HAVE ALMOST DIED — FOR THOSE WHO FIGHT FOR IT, LIFE HAS A FLAVOR THE PROTECTED WILL NEVER KNOW."

But romanticism has no place in a combat zone, for I was led out to guardmount with the rest of the troops and assigned to hand out banana magazines to the alert teams (men just off-duty who are on standby for the following eight hours in case of enemy attack).

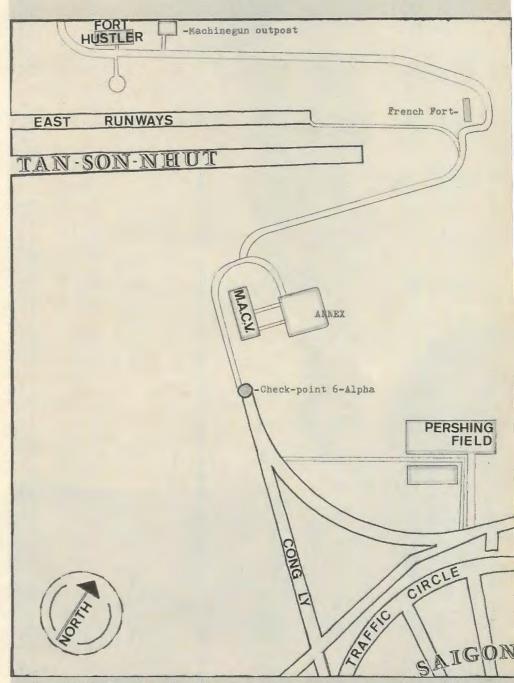
As midnight approached, the driver of our four-man combined police patrol suggested we stop off at the Tran Hung Dao police station for coffee. We had responded to only one call in the last two hours: a report of shots fired at an address on Truman Key, but we couldn't find the exact house, so the call was logged as unfounded.

It was about 5:30 in the morning when the town patrols returned to Pershing Field, home of Saigon's military police battalion. I stumbled through the barracks in darkness, dragging my web gear through empty beer cans littering the floor. I found my bunk and pulled the string that started the blue fluorescent light buzzing. The fan was already humming softly, and after brushing a handful of dead mosquitoes from my bed, I unlaced my jungle boots, kicked them off, and lay down under the artificial breeze. I was afraid I would have trouble falling asleep. but I soon dozed off into a restless dream of rats and cockroaches and mama-sans chewing betel nuts and smiling black smiles.

An hour later, the rockets came in.

The concussions slapping the air rocked me in my bunk and shook the sleep from my head. I looked around the room quickly, trying to remember where I was and why I felt as though I was going to die. The electricity was out. The air smelled of burning oil, and as I tried to focus my eyes, I remembered I was in Vietnam. Three more explosions cracked the air, causing the barracks to tremble and smashing me to the wooden floor. Orange light flashed by the wire-screened win-

SAIGON WORLD'S BUSIEST AIRPORT



A Viet Cong sniper was permanently placed in the jungle at the end of the east runways. He would take pot shots with his single-shot rifle at anything coming in, from Air France Caravelles to U.S. Army jets. Allied personnel decided to leave him in peace. He never hit anything anyway, and if taken out, his replacement could have been a crack shot.



Huge smoke column rises in aftermath of 122mm rocket attack on Saigon.

dows, and men were running up and down the hall, gathering up helmets and flak jackets and pulling up their pants.

"Rocket attack! Rocket attack!" someone yelled. Outside I could hear voices screaming orders and patrol jeeps being revved up. As I got to my feet and reached for my holster, another blast knocked me off balance to my knees. The air raid sirens downtown began droning through the predawn darkness, and flares shot up through the mist like hometown fireworks. As I ran out the swinging door and down the stairs to the first floor, two gunships skimmed low over the rooftops and disappeared into a column of thick black smoke drifting across the camp from Tan-Son-Nhut Airbase.

I buttoned my flak jacket and started running toward a group of MPs assembling next to the V-100 assault tanks. Two jeeps raced past me toward the main gate, red lights flashing and sirens wailing, passengers holding onto their helmets as the vehicles took the bumps in front of the PMO station.

Buzzzzzzz...WHOOOooomph! and a bright orange flash erupted between two barracks on the far side of the camp, near the Vietnamese military outpost. A group of soldiers who had just wandered in from a whorehouse downtown leaned against the top-floor barracks railing, whistling and cheering with each new explosion. A giant oil tank across at the ammo dump took a direct hit, and as huge balls of flame billowed up into the night sky, the group broke into hysterical applause. One man fell halfway down the stairs.

"You drunk S.O.B. jerks, grab some rifles!" a lieutenant screamed at them.

Suddenly one man's eyes grew wide and he pointed in the air and yelled, "Look out, boss! It's comin' right at you!" as a 122mm rocket buzzed overhead in slow motion. The lieutenant dove under a jeep and the group again resumed clapping as the projectile crashed a quarter mile outside the camp.

The sky was full of fire and flame when another rocket whizzed overhead. Everybody ducked, and CRAAAaaack!!! -

I grabbed onto a handhold and pulled myself up onto the third tank...

"Move 'em out!" the captain was shouting, and the tanks, equipped with giant balloon-tires and 50 cal. machine guns, began rolling before the entire team had even straggled in. I grabbed onto a handhold and pulled myself up onto the third tank as it kicked up dirt and bounced through the main gate at 50 miles per

More tanks were lining up outside the orderly room, and a half dozen gun jeeps, equipped with M-60s, took their place in the rear of the pack. MPs decked out in combat gear looked more like ARVN in-



LEFT: ARVN tank outside Tan-Son-Nhut airport. BELOW: American Military Police prepare V-100 for action.







ABOVE LEFT: MPs scout the bush for VC tunnels. BELOW LEFT: MPs take cover in bunker and foxhole, whatever was available. ABOVE: Author waits in MP jeep at Pershing Field. Jeeps were used unless serious disturbances or attacks occurred-then they were turned in for armored V-100s.

V-100s.
RIGHT: One of the Vietnamese CPs who assisted author with foot chase of robbery suspect.



fantry than policemen as they piled into the vehicles. The sky continued to glow eerie orange, and a final rocket barrage came crashing in.

Then it was over. Air raid sirens' piercing wails continued to rise and fall as sounds of the explosions echoed away. Those not assigned to the alert force were running back and forth with boxes of extra ammunition for the automatic weapons - three and four on each tank. The chaplain was running around looking for someone to administer last rites to, but the entire battalion had sustained only two minor shrapnel injuries. The bulk of the attack had centered on Tan-Son-Nhut, and only a few rockets had missed their mark. Ambulances soon arrived from MACV annex and Third Field Army Hospital, but they were directed to proceed to the airbase.

Finally, one at a time, the air raid sirens shut down, and small-arms fire could be heard in the distance. Even the newest men to the unit overcame their fear and tension and broke into laughter after the colonel caught two lieutenants, half asleep, clad only in their O.D. green shorts, attempting to smuggle four prostitutes out of the officers' quarters to a waiting jeep. Wrapped from head to toe in thin blankets, the girls began screaming hysterically as rockets started coming in again.

Everyone resumed running for cover and the air raid sirens slowly and mournfully rose in pitch. The officers, who had been standing at attention, scampered back up the stairs for their equipment, and the prostitutes discarded their blankets and raced naked across the compound for the main gate.

Two MPs stood next to the mess hall, watching black smoke billow up from another exploding ammo dump, as a roc-

ket slowly descended on them from above.

"Hit the dirt!" someone yelled, and the men looked up just in time to react. They ducked and scattered just as the rocket hit a wire and exploded 20 feet above the ground, sending orange and yellow balls of fire and hot smoking metal arcing through the air like an angry volcano.

NCOs were yelling orders and enlisted men were ignoring them and diving for cover, and Vietnamese civilians were running around like chickens. Another explosion rocked the flagpole in front of the headquarters building; the flash of light was brilliant and blinding, but when the smoke cleared Old Glory and the Republic of Vietnam's yellow and red stripes were still waving in the breeze.

Soldiers were clapping and raising victory signs as we passed through the annex barracks and sped down Knox Street (the wrong way on a one-way street), a dozen sirens blaring and red lights throwing sheets of color over the dark walls of the

buildings we passed. The 18th Military Police Brigade was the main unit armed and responsible for the defense of Saigon and the protection of the American military stationed there, and we felt like the Allies liberating Paris after the fall of the Nazis. Crowds of Vietnamese cheered us on as we raced by, and slum children waved and chased through the dust after our tanks.

But then the glory was behind us, and as our convoy passed the old abandoned French fort south of Tan-Son-Nhut, we came upon the airfield and began taking sniper fire.

"Where the hell is it coming from?" a voice crackled over the radio net. "Somebody get a fix on that sniper!"

"Flashes are coming from the French fort!" Two patrols were detached to clear the structure, but they found no Viet Cong.

Tan-Son-Nhut appeared to be in flames, but only fuel tanks and some storage bunkers had been hit. Sparks spread to an open tank on the east edge of the field, and it soon went up in a tre-

Three explosions cracked the air, smashing me to the wooden floor. Orange light flashed . . . and men were running up and down . . . gathering up helmets and jackets . . .

mendous fireball that hurt the ears and singed eyebrows. A thick column of inky smoke rose and collected in a dark, monstrous cloud that hung over the base and began edging across the outskirts of Saigon

We passed a conex crate that had taken a direct hit from a rocket. We watched as medics scooped up two Vietnamese workers who had been sleeping in the metal container and loaded them into an ambulance. After they sped away and the dust settled, a bloodied hand, severed at the wrist, was found lying on the concrete runway. An MP jeep was directed to rush the limb to the hospital in an attempt to beat the ambulance, but the civilian was dead on arrival.

"There is a squad of MPs sweeping the field between the air base and Hustler Compound," came a voice over the radio. "They are on foot without radio communications. Exercise caution!"

"I wish the damn sun would hurry and come up," whispered my ammo man. I

was one of the rear gunners and could barely hear him as we rumbled by another exploding fuel tank. The rockets were leaving the jungle now, one at a time, with long intervals between launchings.

"Does anyone have a fix on those 122s?" someone was asking over the radio, as another twirled lazily overhead. It came down on a guy-wire next to the control tower, exploding in midair.

A Huey chopper, unarmed except for two MPs hanging out the sides with M-16s, skimmed past a few feet over our heads and disappeared beyond the trees. The sound of automatic weapons fire erupted, and after a muffled explosion, a puff of blue smoke rose from the tangle of reeds and elephant grass. At first we thought the chopper had been shot down, but it soon appeared circling above the treetops and was apparently drawing sniper fire from the jungle below. The MPs got off about 10 rounds, then the helicopter banked sharply to the left and retreated back to the MACV compound.

Meanwhile, our convoy accelerated up the long stretch of highway past Hustler Compound and circled around the ARVN machine-gun outpost. It took us some time to find an area that wasn't blocked by thick fences or concertina wire, and then we found ourselves up against an old network of anti-tank trenches. The lead V-100 plunged into a flooded rice paddy and plowed through the carcasses of some dead water buffalo, only to emerge on solid ground with one of its balloon-like tires leaking badly. The men inside jumped to the ground and raced over to the remaining tanks and quickly climbed aboard.

An alternate route was soon located by a scouting gun-jeep and the entire alert force left the trail and roared into the jungle. The lead tank headed for the rising smoke column that marked the area where the chopper had contacted the enemy. Every few seconds, a loud "ping" would resound off our armor-plated vehicles, and though we could not hear the shots being fired, it was likely we were receiving hostile fire.

We came to a low hill and then a narrow gorge that opened up into a flat valley. About 300 yards distant, at the crest of another hill, nine men, armed with automatic weapons and tubes of some sort, could be seen fleeing toward high trees. A long radio antenna rose from the shoulders of one man, bouncing back and forth as he ran. Two gun-jeeps overtook us as we left the bush and raced after the guerrillas.

"Break off all contact and return to base camp!"

"All units return to camp!" came the order over the radio. "Return and secure the perimeter immediately. We are expect-

ing sappers!"

"We have sighted enemy forces and are giving chase!" came a voice from one of the gun-jeeps.

"Negative!" barked the speaker, "Break off all contact and return to base camp!"

I looked at my ammo man and we exchanged disappointed frowns, but then we realized our driver was continuing the chase. One tank remained behind us, but the rest of the convoy broke off and turned around. I grinned and slapped my partner on the shoulder and he showed all his teeth, ready for battle. We tightened our helmets and sank as low into the metal seats as we could.

Our gunner opened up on the VC and two were lifted off the ground and smashed into the trees.

One of the terrorists doubled back and took up a position behind a tree stump, firing at us with his AK-47. The jeeps skidded to a halt and allowed our tanks to roll by. Our front gunner opened up on the VC with his M-60, and two Vietnamese bringing up the rear of the fleeing column were lifted off the ground by the bullets and smashed into the trees. Tracers sliced through their bodies and ricocheted out into the dark jungle ahead. The remaining VC took cover and returned fire.

The sun had not yet risen, but predawn light was increasing, making visibility fairly good. We crossed the valley floor and advanced on the hill held by men in black pajamas. Our tank was equipped with a huge spotlight, and the driver turned it on and proceeded to scan the hillside. The Viet Cong promptly shot it to pieces and then directed their wall of lead on our forward compartment. Our front tires, which I had been told were pure rubber and practically indestructible, exploded in a fury of blue smoke, sending the armored carrier sliding face-first into a pool of mud, coming to rest half submerged at the foot of the hill. Everybody jumped to the ground, and the gun-jeeps provided a hail of cover fire.

A cloud of smoke hung across the valley floor, making it hard to see each other, much less the enemy. I teamed up with another MP and we began running up the hill in an awkward crouch, firing short bursts with our rifles. The rest of the men joined us, but somehow the VC had vanished. We fanned out and swept the hill to the top, but came up with nothing more than some empty shell casings and a few drops of blood.

Our squad leader elected to return to the smoke column that still rose slowly towards the clouds, a few hundred yards west. It took nearly an hour to travel the short distance through the tangled brush, but what we found as we entered the clearing was enough to shake fatigue from

everyone's bones. The bodies of four communists littered the ashes around the burned-out launch pad. A crate of small rockets was located in a bunker nearby.

"One of the rockets must have been defective," I said. "The damn thing blew up right on the launch pad!"

"What about these rockets?" One of the jeep gunners was down in the bunker, examing the crate. "They've got instructions in English!"

"Get out of there!" the squad leader began yelling. "That whole bunker might be booby-trapped!'

The gunner froze in midstride and slowly looked around at the faces that stared at him. His eyes were saying, "Get me the hell outta here!" and two of the guys eased their way to his shoulders and lifted

"The instructions are easier to translate into Vietnamese from English than Chinese," the squad leader explained. "But I have sure never seen any rockets like that before. Anybody know what they are?"

Nobody answered and then a sniper began shooting down on us from the distant

We sped down Knox Street..., sirens blaring..., until we passed the old French fort ... and began taking sniper fire.

trees. We exchanged rifle fire for nearly half an hour, and finally someone remembered we had a limited supply of ammo. The squad leader decided it was time to pull back to the jeeps, but then a machine gun opened up on us from a hill to the east, leaving only one avenue of escape.

It was unusual for the VC to pursue Americans so close to Saigon, but the squad leader decided to take full advantage of it. He got on the radio and requested additional men and a couple of gunships if possible. The officer on the other end advised he would attempt to raise some artillery support, but that gunships were out of the question at this time. He also advised that an Air America pilot had spotted over 100 soldiers, possibly Viet Cong, moving toward our position. However, neither the artillery nor the VC reinforcements showed up.

I took my ammo man and circled around behind the machine-gunner. We tossed two grenades and neither detonated.

"Where the hell did you get these

things?" I asked, releasing the magazine in my rifle to check my supply. It was half empty. He had no answer, only a frightened grin. As I quietly slid the magazine back into my M-16, he was already crawling toward the machine-gunner. Within seconds he was on his feet firing pointblank into the VC's foxhole, using semiautomatic. As I ran up behind him, he continued to fire after the enemy soldier lay in a very dead heap at the bottom of the muddy hole. I grabbed his arm and jerked him to the ground, half expecting the sniper across the field to finish us off, but he seemed to be concentrating on the other MPs.

He was on his feet, firing pointblank into the VC's foxhole....

"Are you okay?" I asked. He just smiled and shook his head back and forth, repeating "Wow ..." over and over under his breath.

The squad leader was firing an M-79 grenade rifle into the trees, and I watched as two VC were blown end-over-end through the air, landing hard in rocks beneath the treeline. They tumbled down the hillside, bloody bundles of tattered clothing and torn flesh.

Our grenades must have had quite a psychological effect, for soon three communists walked out into the clearing, their hands reaching for the sky. "No shoot! Chieu Hoa! No shoot!" they were yelling at the top of their lungs.

One new MP started to get to his feet from behind a fallen tree log, but the squad leader yanked him back down under cover just as one of the VC pulled a Chi-com grenade from under his shirt and brought back his arm. He was cut down before he could throw the bomb, and the explosion killed his two comrades.

"Now you can get up," the squad leader told the new MP. We all began to gather around the bodies like green rookies. I caught the flash of metal out of the corner of my eye — high up in the trees, where the first sniper had been spot-

"Hit the ground!" I yelled, and sure enough, a sniper began blasting away. I crashed into the squad leader as we dove behind the same rotting log, and he pounded the ground, cursing himself.

"Damn, I should have remembered the count!" he growled. "I knew there was one more up there somewhere! I should have remembered the count!"

The young Viet Cong soldier continued to shoot at anything that moved. We fired back, but it was difficult to leave cover and find a good vantage point without inviting death.

Continued on page 90

BATF'S WAR ON CIVIL LIBERTIES

A Review

by Nino Baldachi

THE BATF'S WAR ON CIVIL LIBER-TIES: The Assault on Gun Owners. Report of the Task Force to Investigate the Enforcement Policies of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. By David T. Hardy. Belleville, Washington: Second Amendment Foundation. \$4.00. Review by Nino Baldachi.

During the 1978 political uproar concerning BATF's attempts to "end run" Congress on a national gun registration scheme, several cases of alleged BATF abuses of citizen rights came to light. The Second Amendment Foundation, a taxexempt, publicly supported organization dedicated to promoting a better understanding of our constitutional heritage to privately own and possess firearms, initiated a comprehensive study of BATF's enforcement of gun-control laws and regulations to determine the veracity of such complaints. If true, the Foundation would determine if such cases were isolated abuses or deliberate activities conducted with concurrence or guidance from the Bureau's highest officers.

Tucson attorney David T. Hardy, whose background includes studies of firearms regulations, was chosen as project director. An advisory board of pro-

fessors, policymakers, and civil libertarians was formed to oversee the project, make recommendations and "give final approval to the finished report." The board included prominent ACLU members and other humanitarian and human rights groups, a former Secretary of the Treasury, a number of professors - of law and other disciplines — at various universities, and a congressman. Although attitudes toward gun ownership varied from a desire to outlaw all possession of handguns to repeal of all federal laws concerning same, the board approached the BATF's activities from the standpoint of civil rights.

What they found were massive, comprehensive violations of U.S. citizens' basic rights done as a matter of course by BATF. Researchers detected a trend in BATF away from enforcement of felony laws against sources of firearms for Mafia-type elements and violent criminals stalking our streets. Instead, it was apparent that BATF found the average, middle-class, law-abiding gun owner to be easier pickings.

BATF, the Task Force found, is like any other government bureaucracy. It needs to justify its existence each year to budget makers and its leaders want to expand it to build their own empires. To justify its existence, BATF directors feel they must show Congress an impressive arrest and gun confiscation record, both to show the massive results they are getting with their budget and to show how many gun criminals are loose in the U.S., waiting for steely-eyed Treasury agents to arrest them. Gun owners have become, in Treasury's eyes, gun criminals.

Unfortunately for us citizens, BATF has discovered it is difficult to try to catch Mafia dealers moving a thousand guns over the border to trade for drugs. A single Mafia-directed investigation may take years, informants and undercover agents may be murdered, and when an arrest follows, the Mob can throw high-powered, high-priced attorneys at prosecuters in court to defeat the case. It should come as no surprise, therefore, that BATF looked around for an easier target.

There was an untapped, "easy" source of statistics: the average U.S. citizen. With over 50 million handguns and 200 million long arms legally owned by citizens, it was an easy matter to declare most of the activities of the average gun-owning citizen violations of regulations. Although the "compromise" 1968 Gun Control Act was never intended by Congress to restrict or ban the possession, sale, or transfer of guns by U.S. citizens, the Treasury Department (which also brought you the Internal Revenue Service) was able to twist and re-interpret various portions of that Act, convincing courts to uphold their interpretation that the sale of two guns, or in some cases, only one gun, constitutes evidence the seller of the gun(s) is

At the same time, BATF has been forcing dealers to give up their licenses by increasingly restrictive new regulations on who or what constitutes a dealer. Thus, the average gun owner, if he sells one of his guns to another citizen, can be classified as "dealing without a license" and arrested, subject to five or more years in jail. Yet if the gun owner tries to get a license to "deal" in firearms (read selling your gun), he is told by BATF that he doesn't meet the requirements to get a license. It's a beautiful Catch-22 for BATF. Advertising your gun for sale in the local newspaper can be (and has been) introduced into court as evidence you were a dealer.

Do you remember those statements you made about not wanting government "paperwork" on your weapons, because you don't trust your government with registration? Those statements are deliberately encouraged by undercover BATF agents or informers and are used almost as a mainstay in the government's case against you, proving "anti-government or illegal intent." They are used to show juries you are a dangerous, anti-establishment character, intent on subver-

ting this country's laws. Never mind the fact that the basis of all this activity, the '68 Gun Control Act, included a preamble that said the law was not to be used in violation of the right to keep and bear arms by U.S. citizens.

The fact remains, as shown very clearly in this book, that the BATF's main target is the gun-owning citizen. Face it. If you were a government agent looking at 6-12 months of dangerous undercover work to obtain a conviction against a man trafficking 100 guns to narcotics dealers, with a chance of losing the conviction or not even making an arrest and your superiors demanding numbers, wouldn't you look for an easier target? How about that gun show being held in your town next weekend? In three to four hours with an undercover buyer or seller, you could come up with 20 arrests and 100 guns confiscated. Furthermore, most of the average middleclass citizens you would arrest will not be able to afford the \$5,000 for a lawyer to go to federal court, let alone the time spent away from work to fight the case, nor could the citizen face the possibility that the courts would rule against him and he could go to prison for a felony conviction based on re-interpretations by BATF of a regulation.

The likelihood would be that more than 50 percent of those honest citizens would be forced to plea-bargain for lesser charges and promises of probation. Thus, you, as an agent, supervisor, or director of BATF would be guaranteed a large number of arrests, a high conviction rate (due to plea-bargaining), and confiscation of large numbers of guns.

Sound unlikely? Well, folks, brace yourselves. According to BATF's War on Civil Liberties, Big Brother is already here. BATF's own statistics, internal memoes, and agents confirm it. These facts, published in the book, show BATF has made a move away from fighting organized crime and narcotics to a whole class of people just declared criminal: gun-owning citizens of the U.S.

For example, BATF likes to claim it has a war on against "Saturday Night Special" handguns, which they define as guns with barrel lengths of less than four inches, .32 caliber or less, and priced at \$50 or less. By its own definition, BATF's confiscations of firearms include less than five percent Saturday Night Specials. In fact, long guns, used rarely in crime, comprise close to 60 percent of all confiscations.

Speaking of confiscations, the Task Force report found a major weapon in BATF's war against the citizen is confiscation of all of an owner's firearms. Confiscations are handled separately from a felony arrest — by civil courts, not criminal courts. No matter that the jury may acquit the citizen of all charges against him, no matter that the judge laughed at BATF's "evidence" against

him and threw the felony case out of court (if the citizen can afford to take it that far). A civil court can, will, and usually does, allow BATF to retain all confiscated weapons. No legal definitions or proofs of right or wrong are involved in civil confiscations. The judge has to decide only if evidence shows the government thought it had sufficient reason to confiscate. Simple statements by BATF agents usually suffice in civil courts against the citizen's complaints.

Second Amendment Foundation's Task Force found conclusive evidence, in the form of statistics, memos, etc., to prove BATF has vastly overstepped all bounds of reason in its war on the gun-owning citizen. That the organization continues to operate in such a fashion, even after its director was forced to resign following charges of perjury made by congressmen following gun-registration hearings last year, is a testament to the efforts of the Carter administration's support of such violations of our own human rights in the name of "gun control."

Don't ask BATF for rulings on these same regulations and then try to abide by them. This reviewer knows of a case in which one BATF agent was ordered by a superior to look in the classified section of the local newspaper to find anyone advertising two guns for sale and arrest him for "dealing" in firearms without a license. Furthermore, BATF has been successful in getting a judge, in a precedent-of-law case, to state that the sale of one gun, whether for profit or not, is sufficient to prove a defendant an illegal gun dealer. Yet when this reviewer called the Denver BATF office to ask for a ruling on the legality of a potential sale of two old guns he no longer used, BATF agents and representatives were unanimous in stating that such was not, and never could be, considered a crime.

Cases stated in the Task Force Report indicated time and time again that BATF gave misleading or inaccurate information, sometimes deliberately, to gun owners, then successfully prosecuted them, claiming "ignorance of the law [or, in this case, the regulation is no excuse.' Citizens of these United States are thus required to know not only all the laws their Congress passes, but also the hundreds of thousands of regulations the vast, uncontrollable bureaucracy quietly makes to enforce, or subvert those laws (regulations made by BATF under the vague "guidelines" of the '68 GCA have indeed subverted the intent of the '68 GCA, as stated in its preamble).

Based on the findings and sample cases presented in the book, the Second Amendment Foundation is pressing for congressional investigations into unconstitutional activities of BATF.

This book raises an interesting question: What has happened to those firm and outspoken advocates of our indi-

vidual rights? You know who I mean, of course. Those persons who brag in a bar or in a private residence amongst friends that when the "knock at the door" sounds, "They're gonna have to fight to get me and my guns." You've heard them at every gathering of sportsmen, shooters, hunters, and fellow citizens. Chances are very good that you, reading this publication, have made that statement yourself at one time or another.

What has happened? When the knock at the door and the shout, "Open up! We're Treasury agents with a warrant for your arrest!" come, the honest, gunowning citizen's reaction has been exactly the same as that of citizens in every other country when faced with tyranny. The thought is the same to the honest people in every society: "There must be some mistake! They can't want me! I haven't done anything wrong." With that thought come the sinking sensation and the fear. To date there have been no exceptions.

None of you brave folk have grabbed your shootin' irons and come out fighting for your rights. Like the sheep we all are, you've gone off to face the injustice, thinking and hoping desperately that things will be all right because your cause is right and just. Like the bewildered Germans in the Holocaust who were rounded up like sheep because their religion or politics were different, so have U.S. citizens been hauled off to receive their unjust sentences, their felony records for crimes they didn't commit or, at the very least, catastrophic financial, moral and reputational disasters in efforts to defend themselves. And you others, as neighbors, fellow gun owners, and believers in democracy, haven't fought to defend those hauled off.

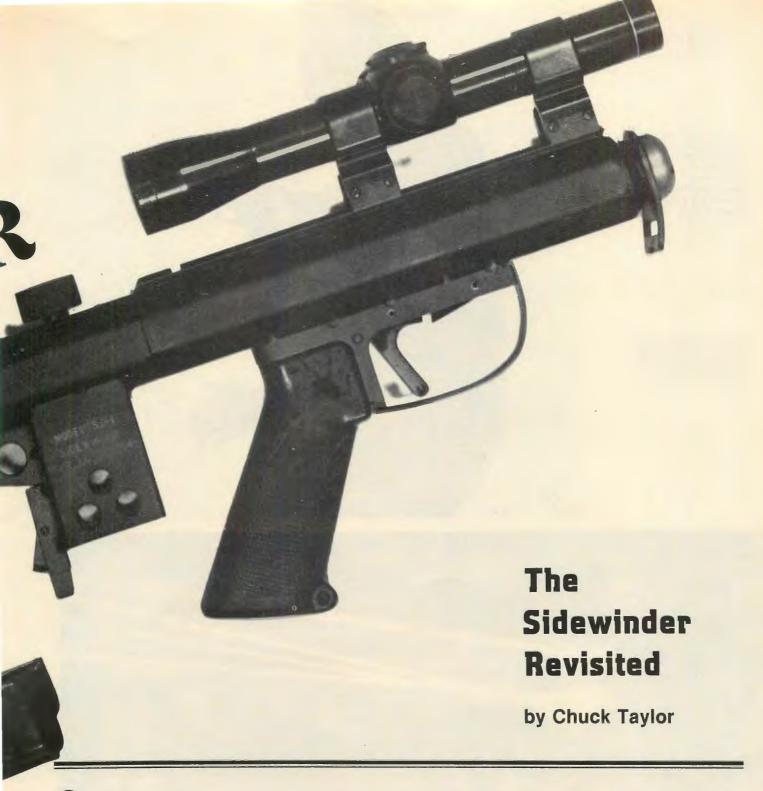
Well, now is the time to fight! Buy the book, find out what is happening, and petition your congressmen, using the examples given as proof BATF and '68 GCA are two things free citizens must do without, if we want to remain free. You can't let it happen to the other guy. Sooner or later, it will be you — and who will come to your rescue then??



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THE ULTIMATE AUTOMATIC WEAPON?





NE year ago, I wrote a preliminary report for SOF (Jan. '78) on a revolutionary new submachine-gun design by S&S Arms Co. of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Designed from scratch by Sid McQueen, head of S&S, the prototype Sidewinders tested by myself and several other SOF staff members were impressive and demonstrated tremendous potential.

When I first met McQueen and his staff at SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown's house nearly two years ago, we discussed the probable evolution of warfare and its effect upon the standard infantry squad as we know it. Our consensus was that the art of war is becoming so efficient that, very probably, within a very, very short time period in combat, almost all conventional command structure will cease to exist because of high personnel and equipment losses. This being the case, the infantry squad we know today will become instead a "survival squad" — foraging off the environment and enemy for food, clothing, equipment, ammunition and even weapons.

Projected size of the "survival squad" is three to five men. Any group of personnel larger than this would bring swift artillery, aircraft, or other enemy response. During our discussion, we decided the SMG, a grenade launcher and an anti-

tank weapon, preferably of the shoot-and-throw-away type, and the telescope-sighted rifle — not necessarily semi-automatic — would be the most useful weapons for such a unit. Why? Well, as pointed out in my initial Sidewinder coverage, future battlefields will usually be in urban areas. Recent events in Syria and Lebanon are examples of this emerging pattern.

The battle rifle, assault rifle, light machine gun, and squad automatic rifle will see little use in future urban warfare since they require organized training for potential operators to attain any degree of efficiency. Also, these weapons are not

SIDEWINDER

RIGHT: Taylor during field tests engaging silhouette target at 15 meters from the hip. Found SIDEWINDER pointed well and functioned reliably even in mud and rain.

BELOW: SIDEWINDER by night: tracer bullets add extra excitement to the evening's activities.





suitable for close-in fighting and they require logistical support that is out of the question in such a scenario.

The SMG, on the other hand, requires less training for operators to utilize it efficiently at close combat ranges. Because the SMG is cheap enough to allow its abandonment, if necessary, under tactical

circumstances, its operator can take the weapon, equipment, ammo, and food of the adversary whom he has just killed if he is low or out of ammunition.

As fighting continues, the most seasoned squad man will most likely use the telescoped rifle, as he will be the most skilled. Remember, almost all participants

will be relatively unskilled initially. The man who survives long enough to be senior will do so because he is smartest, quickest and most ruthless. It doesn't take great "skill" as we now know it to effectively use a 'scoped rifle against a human target at ranges inside 200 meters.









ABOVE LEFT: Progressive trigger, secret of control, retained on pilot-production gun. Light pull gives semi-auto, medium gives 3-shot burst, and heavy pull gives continuous full-auto. CENTER: Excellent feature is magazine release housing doubling as magazine loader. No need for extra equipment, a boon to man-in-the-field. ABOVE RIGHT: Pilot Production SIDEWINDER, cal. 9mm parabellum. Taylor feels that many improvements have been

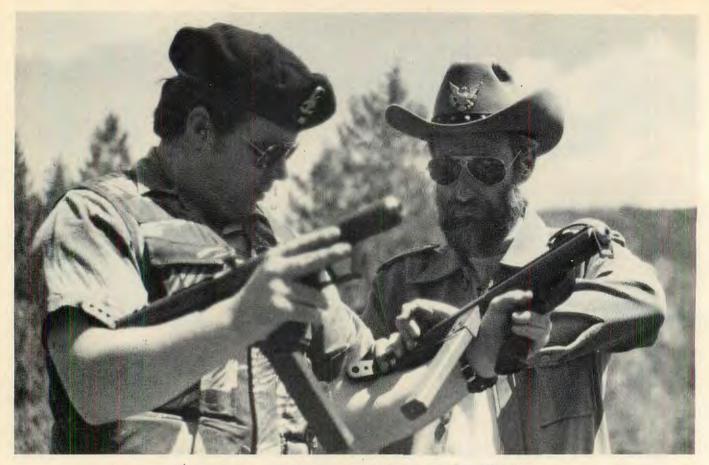


New innovation on pilot production model is ability to change sights from standard iron type, to optical, to Single-Point type with no loss of zero.

View of ejection port and bolt handle of pilot production gun. Final production guns will feature larger bolt handle for maximum utility and improved dust cover.

BELOW: Konnie Boileau demonstrates weapon. Boileau had no weapon firing experience prior to SIDEWINDER, yet was competent with SMG in 15 minutes.





Designer Sid McQueen puts SOF staffer through his paces with the SIDEWINDER.

The mission of the man with the optically sighted rifle is to keep the enemy off the backs of the men with the short range SMGs, if they are located at ranges or under such conditions that successful engagement by SMGs is not feasible.

Meanwhile, the man primarily armed with a grenade launcher and/or anti-tank weapon(s) can be engaging targets as required, with protection from the other available SMG men. The team member armed with the scoped rifle is also protected from flank and/or short range sorties by the enemy in this fashion. In other words, each man and weapon complements the other and everyone protects each other.

At maximum strength, the squad will consist of three SMG men — the point man and two others. The grenadier will carry as his primary weapon an M-79-type launcher and perhaps three AT weapons of the LAW or VIPER configuration. The sniper will use a scope-sighted rifle, and he, along with the grenadier, will use pistols as secondary weapons.

The ranges encountered in urban areas, as any street cop can confirm, are short, thus the SMG, with a high cyclic rate of fire, is just the ticket, especially if it possesses a reliable, simple kind of burst-control unit, points well, can be used with either hand or one hand if necessary, has a low recoil impulse and can also be shoulder fired. Light weight is also a factor.

The above describes the Sidewinder because McQueen designed it to meet those requirements. Of no aesthetic beauty, the Sidewinder is, as I said in my first article, a *Volkssturm*, a people's gun, because trained men will not be available in quantity in future wars.

Sophisticated Simplicity

McQueen wants to have three Sidewinder versions available: a 9mm parabellum model (the SS-1), a .45 ACP model (the SS-2), and a convertible model (the SS-3) that can be switched back and forth by the operator in the field from either 9mm to .45 or vice-versa, so both of the world's most common SMG cartridges can be utilized and prospective buyers receive maximum utility.

Approximate weights for the production guns will be:

- A. SS-1: 6.0 lbs. loaded w/32-rd. magazine, 9mm parabellum.
- B. SS-2: 7.50 lbs. loaded w/30-rd. magazine, cal. .45 ACP.
- C. SS-3: 7.75 lbs. loaded w/either 32 rds. 9mm or 30 rds .45 ACP.

I have just completed a two-day preliminary test, under field conditions, of the pilot producton gun, serial number EX-004. Many improvements have been incorporated into the design since the earlier prototypes and test models — serial numbers EX-001, EX-002, EX-003 (gun number EX-002 is one of those with which I "cleaned" the Dualatron course, mentioned in Full Auto, SOF, Sept. '78).

The gun functioned well, a result of the fact that it can be cocked to five different degrees of bolt-travel force to allow for grit in the action or magazine, weak ammo, etc. The buffer can also be field-adjusted for three different degrees of strength, allowing for different ammunition and giving the operator a choice of cyclic rates of from 700 to about 1,200 rpm. He can, therefore, choose the rate he needs for a given set of conditions. The smooth, progressive trigger also allows semi-fire.

The gun is light, well balanced and didn't leap around or climb when fired. Effective engagement of targets, IPSC "Option" camouflage silhouettes in this test, proved to be easy, and I obtained solid hits with little difficulty. In my opinion, this was due to the ease of pointing the weapon and the three-round burst control device that conserves ammunition while correcting bursts onto the target. This particular feature works without being a complex mechanism, and is not breakage-prone. Because of pending patent procedures and foreign contracts, I cannot elaborate on it further.

The Sidewinder is excellent for fromthe-hip engagements and has an extendable buttstock allowing use of sights, easily attached in the field without tools. They can be detached in the same manner.



A clean-shaven McQueen tests early SIDEWINDER prototype in .45 ACP with Sionics sound suppressor attached.

Another feature is a universal sight base on the receiver that allows rapid sight mounting and dismounting with minimal loss of zero. Optional sights, including the telescopic as well as the superb Single-Point type — in my opinion, a natural for

this weapon that should be standard — are available.

The pilot-production Sidewinder has evolved greatly while retaining its basic design principles. It is still light, small, handy, and, above all, *simple*.



The heart of the SIDEWINDER: the ability to use it from virtually any position — even shooting around corners.

It remains centered around the basic specifications of length at 17.0 inches with telescoping stock retracted, and at 21.0 inches with stock extended. The barrel is nine inches and sits completely within the receiver with the exception of the muzzle. A sound-suppressor can also be attached for specialized operations.

When target engagement is required past point-shooting ranges, the operator need only extend the buttstock assembly to whatever position suits him, shoulder the piece, and go for it, using whatever sights he wishes. Again, on this type of weapon, I feel the Single-Point is the only way to fly for any work from the shoulder.

The Sidewinder makes a good addition to today's military arms inventories as a special purpose weapon, and special units such as Pararescue groups — who must engage targets while hanging out of helicopters — and SEALs. In fact, anyone who requires an easily handled, effective one-hand weapon can use the Sidewinder right now.

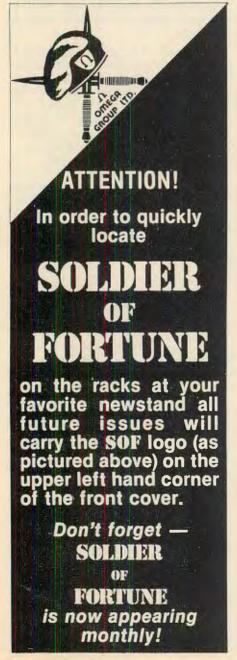
As a result of my participation in the 1978 tests, I recommended that a number of minor improvements be included on the production test guns. These were the elimination of the lightening holes in the iron-sight housing assembly, the magazine housing and magazine housing reinforcement strut. I also recommended that a simpler, non-adjustable iron-sight unit with simplified reinforcement bar be used instead of the more complex adjustable unit now on the gun. If these adjustments are made as promised, the Sidewinder will fulfill all missions for which it was intended, yet remain simple, robust, and relatively cheap to manufacture.

I give the Sidewinder high marks and look forward to testing the first production test guns. I estimate the production pilot gun, serial number EX-004, to be about 95 percent-plus of the complete consummation of the original concept. McQueen is still insistent that the gun be perfected before it is produced for sale, even if it takes years past his projected schedule. He will not market an inferior unit. So far, he has kept his word without fail (no mean feat these days, believe me, for I have refused further participation in several such projects when it became apparent to me that I was being misled).

My criticisms of the pilot production unit are minor, and there is little doubt that the weapon's theory is sound. We can now wait to see what the final example will do. In the interim, SOF readers will be kept informed of the project's progress. As before, personnel who wish any additional information should contact Sid McQueen at S&S Arms Co., 414 Coors Blvd., Albuquerque, NM 87105, U.S.A.







K-88 SPOTTING SCOPE

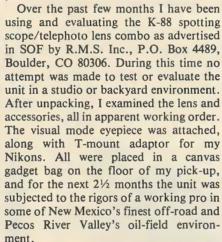
Test & Evaluation



ABOVE: The K-88 window-mounted for long range photography or surveillance.

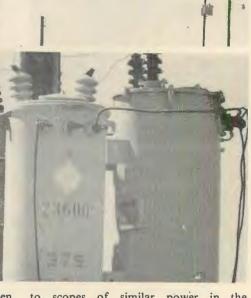
ABOVE RIGHT: Power line at 100 yards with standard lens. RIGHT: Same power line, same distance, but with K-88 lens.

by Lee Jurras



The K-88 combo, as distributed by the RMS firm, is manufactured under the trade name "Celestron," known worldwide for quality optical equipment. The eight-inch long, five-inch diameter body is made of black anodized aluminum. The extremely short overall length, combined with its very long focal length (1000mm), is obtained by what is known in the photo trade as "mirror" or catadioptics, or in the case of the K-88 the Maksutov system. In short, no pun intended, the light entering the system is reflected by a series of mirrors which have the effect of folding the optical path, thus increasing the effective focal length of the primary lens by a factor of three to seven times. When used with the visual mode eyepiece, the K-88 becomes a compact 20X spotting scope, or in use with a 35mm camera, an extremely compact 1000mm telephoto lens. Weighing in at four pounds, it enables the experienced photographer to obtain satisfactory results when hand-holding at 1/1000-second exposures.

I found it superior, from the standpoint of light-gathering ability and resolution,



to scopes of similar power in the \$175-\$225 price range. Compactness and ease of conversion from visual mode to telephoto combined with its all-around ruggedness puts the K-88 in a class by itself.

For people who think a moderately priced telephoto lens with a 2x or 3x extender would be a more economical route, you would be sacrificing photo quality plus losing the visual mode advantage. Or if you think lower-priced standard spotting scopes, with their various 35mm camera attachments would get you by, lots of luck. This usually means an effective aperture of f/32-f/64, plus considerable vignetting.

I won't try to compare the K-88 to the Questar or the Nikkor 1000 from the standpoint of their optical quality or allsteel construction; just remember, they cost nearly five time as much!

As a comparison, let's put it in a different light:

For the small security agency, police or sheriff department, or surveillance specialist needing a rugged, good-quality, long telephoto lens, with the added advantage of a superior-quality spotting scope — you can buy four K-88s.

Drop and break two, lose one in the field, and wear one out over two years; replace it with a *new* K-88, and you still have less than the cost of *one* Questar or Nikkor 1000. Besides, you don't get the visual mode aspect with the Nikkor.

As a rugged unit offering good to excellent quality and service, I can heartily recommend the K-88, as advertised. For best all-around service I would recommend the handy window-mount offered as an option.





ABOVE: Latest AK produced by South Africa, named the R-4. RIGHT: Hungarian copy of AMP.



AK-47: AN UPDATE

by Christopher Newport

We've received the following information from Christopher Newport, author of "The AK-47 and Its Variations" (SOF, May '79), and are printing it as a service to our readers.—The Eds.

It has come to my attention that some new AK-47 variations are being introduced. These include the Hungarian AMP, said to be a grenade-launching AKM, possibly similar to the Yugoslav M64A/70 or the Polish kbkDGN and the Soviet AKD (Avotomat Kalashnikov Desantnyy), an AKM with a modified folding stock and flash suppressor. The latter seems to have been designed specifically for paratroopers and, with the new suppressor, may also have a grenade-launching capability.

South Africa is the latest AK producer with its new R-4 rifle, a close copy of the Israeli Galil ARM in the same 5.56mm caliber. The only obvious difference between them is that the selector switch on the R-4 is like that found on the common AK and not of the Galil thumb variety.

There is also another variation said to be manufactured in South Africa, an exact copy of the Hungarian AMD. Meant for use on special missions, it is in the standard Soviet 7.62x39mm caliber and will use the ammunition captured in large quantities in Angola and on counter-terrorist operations by the South Africans.

It is my personal opinion that this weapon is most probably an import, directly or indirectly from Hungary, and not produced for the SADF locally. I base my judgment upon the fact that it is too close a copy. If South Africa were going to go to the expense of tooling up to make an AK (an illogical decision), why not improve it or change it to suit its own tastes?

Why have the R-4 and this AK as well? In different calibers to boot! It is an exact copy, down to the last rivet, and has no selector-switch marking, an indication of the export intentions of the producer.

Since several photo captions in my article were incorrect, I'd now like to set the record straight:

Page 42: In the Daniel Roxo photo, the AKM depicted is not East German but a parts gun, for it fits no known variation. The caption also states that the SKS is as reliable as the AK; this is not the general consensus of opinion. As I state in the article, it is held to be less reliable but is still a serviceable weapon in its own right.

Page 43: The two female MPLA described as holding East German AKMs are, in fact, holding Romanian AKMs.

Page 45: The nomenclature and selector markings chart is totally wrong. Beyond the omission of certain selector characters, others are printed incorrectly (USSR, Bulgaria, Poland, and Hungary), Communist China is listed three times and Czechoslovakia has no business on it since it produces no AK. Israel was also left off entirely. At the bottom, for the Czech assault rifle, it should read Vz58, not Vz. (See the correct chart, this page.)

Below the chart, the first picture is labeled as a Hungarian AK — it's a Romanian AKM.



AK DESIGNATIONS AND SELECTOR MARKINGS AN IDENTIFICATION AID

	AK	DESIGNATION		SELECTOR MARKINGS		
	PRODUCER	AK-47	AKM	AUTO	SEMIAUTO	
	Bulgaria*	AK-47	AKM	AB	E	
	E. Germany*	MPiK	MPiKM	D	E	
	Finland	M60/62				
	Hungary*	AK-47	AKM/AMD	00	I	
	Israel	Galil				
		ARM/SAR		N or A] or R	
	N. Korea	Type 58	Type 68	出上	CHL	
	Poland*	kbkAK	kbkAKM	C	P	
	Red China	Type 56	-	市 or L	中 or D	
	Romania*	AK-47	AKM	FA	FF	
	Soviet Union*	AK-47	AKM	AB	0	
	Yugoslavia	M64A/M70		R	J	

*Warsaw Pact Member, Czechoslovakia is the only Pact member not to adopt the Soviet AK, preferring their native-designed 7.62 M1943 Vz 58 Assault Rifle.

NOTE: Most AK producers make a folding-stock AK-47 or AKM. The nomenclature distinction is usually the addition of a letter or number to the fixed-stock version's title.

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UGANDA LICKS ITS WOUNDS

UGANDA'S STATE TORTURE CENTER

by Al J. Venter



The odor and the dank gloom were indefinable, reminding me at first of a tannery. As I approached the main entrance, the smell resembled that of the abandoned slaughterhouse in the eastern Transvaal I had visited as a child.

When I entered the three-storied structure and spotted pools of long-clotted blood, bits of flesh and hair stuck to the walls and in one corner, the skeletal remains of a hand, long since picked clean by Kampala's four-footed scavangers, this grotesque symbolism became real — and frightening. I had entered the one building in Africa that had probably seen more suffering and man's inhumanity to man than any other.

This was Idi Amin's human experimental station: a one-way trip to hell, for few people who entered the Center's gates in custody ever saw the light of day again.

While walking through one of the top

Very little of the State Research Center's barbaric evidence had been removed by the time I got there. It was all there — for the looking, for photographing or for taking away if you wished to do so. There was no one to stop me. No one really cares what anyone does in the Center even though many of the documents lying about are top secret and quite a few are liable to embarrass governments which have been friendly to Idi Amin in recent years.

As it was, I removed several items of interest, some of which I photographed for this article.

There were also weapons — guns, grenades, mortar bombs, rockets, booby traps, explosives — piled high in just about every room, almost as if the previous incumbents were bent upon mak-

OCTOBER/79

ing a last stand as the Tanzanian army approached the city. But no one fired a shot from the Center; instead they left Kampala's new generation of revolutionaries enough hardware to fight half a dozen urban wars — the smaller items were disappearing by the day.

And yet — as those who know Africa have found — irony has a million faces. Even in Uganda.

The only building painted bright nipple pink in all Kampala was the one where Amin's butchers perpetrated some of the worst crimes against humanity since the end of World War II.

Tens of thousands of people walked through its portals. Later, I spent days searching Kampala for a single soul who had emerged alive. I did not find him, though I'm sure a few will surface from the desolation Idi Amin left in his wake.

The prospect of being subjected to, as it was innocuously phrased, "interrogation with intimidation," at the State Research

Center drove thousands of people to attempt to escape from Uganda at best, and not a few to suicide, at worst.

Anything was better than being flayed, beaten, suffocated, tortured or electrocuted for hours at a stretch and then, ultimately, having your head smashed in with a hammer or rifle butt.

There were countless variations to the theme. Idi Amin sometimes took part in these orgiastic killings. He personally executed Kampala's Roman Catholic Archbishop Luwum on the steps of the main building while the prelate was giving a blessing.

Amin shot him twice in the face with his favorite side-arm, a .44 magnum, Model 29 Smith & Wesson.

On other occasions, the fat, jolly-faced tyrant would descend to the main underground torture chamber and set about cleaving heads open as and when the whim took him. On these occasions, he used a four-kilo hammer for effect. All

these bodies were disposed of in a large forest on the edge of Kampala.

The stench from this particular grove of trees which met the invading forces as they entered the capital was overwhelming. It was weeks before the new government could muster the courage to clear away what remained of the bodies and they were still doing it when I left.

The rest had been devoured by Kampala's legions of ownerless dogs and some of the largest flocks of black-backed crows I've seen anywhere — Nigeria included.

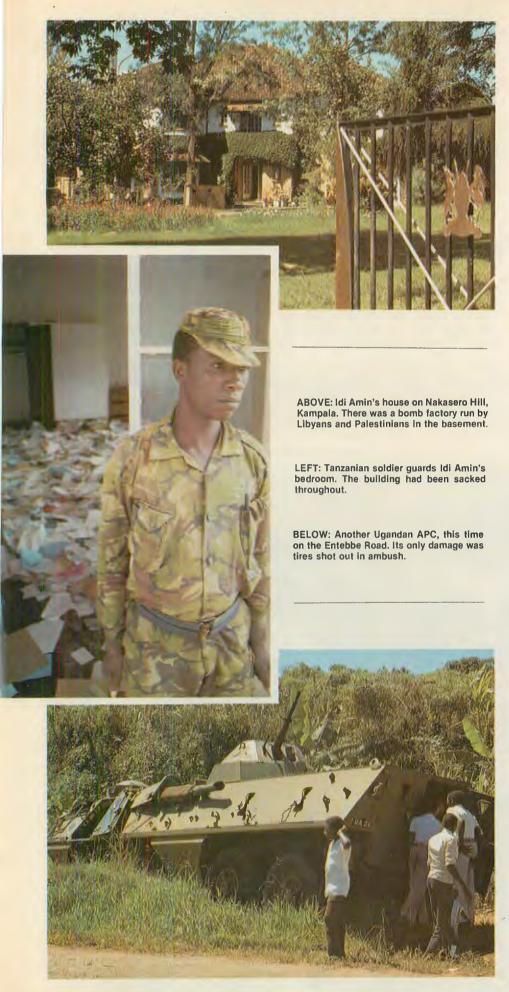
The State Research Center is roughly the size of an average school complex with three stories above ground level and a huge subterranean chamber consisting of maximum security cells.

Situated in an elegant, tree-lined quarter of Kampala, its address — Nakassero Hill — indicates exclusivity. On one side lies one of Amin's better-known homes, on the other, the French Embassy in Uganda.

Recommendation: Interrogation with intimidation can bring more facts out of him into light.

The dreaded recommendation resulting in sure death. -

Another torture machine: radio generator supplies current "below the belt."



Three-hundred meters away, on the nearest corner, is St. Mary's Cathedral, which continued to hold services throughout the eight years that Amin, the buffoon, tortured the Center's inmates with his version of sadistic brutality.

There is no doubt that people living in the vicinity of the Center were aware of the activities of State Research staff. The nightly ritual started each evening at eight and often continued until the early morning hours. Several rooms in the Center were piled ceiling high with marijuana—"good quality pot, this," declared one visiting American journalist—indicating that those perpetrating these atrocities were suitably "fortified" in their efforts.

While most of the bestialities were committed below ground, there was enough activity in other parts of the Center to cause the French ambassador to send his wife home after only a few months in the country.

"She couldn't take the nightly screams — started going round the bend," I was told by Malcolm Blenkinsop, one of a handful of British expatriates who stayed for the duration of Amin's rule. My informant spent 11 years in Uganda and was twice summoned to the State Research Center. It was only because Blenkinsop was chief engineer at Uganda Breweries in Jinja that Amin decided his services were too valuable to lose. Amin's army would have mutinied without beer.

Several Scandinavian embassies are also situated in the vicinity of the State Research Center. Yet, throughout the period of Amin's power, there was never so much as a whisper of protest from these otherwise voluble exponents of human rights. In the words of Blenkinsop: "They knew bloody well what was going on. But to them only whites can commit evil. Not blacks. Not even Idi Amin."

"She couldn't take the nightly screams."

The Swedes are known to have invited a variety of senior SRC personnel to their official functions, including the notorious Major Ali Farouk, responsible for the deaths of several expatriates who "disappeared" during Amin's period of misrule. Among these can be included two American academicians, murdered in the early '70s, at the military barracks at Mbarara, south of the capital.

Documents "liberated" from the State Research Center provide a fascinating insight to the monstrous machinations behind this otherwise innocuous facade.

Many documents were little more than informants' notes, telling of someone smuggling coffee across the border into Kenya, or someone engaged in illicit currency transactions, or perhaps an officer having an affair with another officer's wife — all crimes punishable by death. Under Amin, Uganda became a nation of

informers: families spied on one another - brother against sister, son against father.

There were also long files on all foreigners living in the country. British and American passport holders enjoyed constant surveillance and often the personal attention of the man most hated after Idi Amin, British-born Major Bob Astles, who was responsible for more than one execution in his time. The "rank" was conferred on him by Big Daddy.

Another - more recent - document was marked "classified." It dealt with American air crews who were airlifting Amin's coffee out of Uganda to Djibouti on the Red Sea and bringing back luxuries for his army and those chosen personally by him to hold senior positions and receive the privileges that went with all senior positions.

The report reads, in part: "Among the crews are Americans by nationality; and the appearance of these people look like Japanese. Some of these people during their stay in the hotel, they used to meet with the engineer of Boeing who is Mr. Peter Sekallarids; and Mr. Frank Lives. These two guys' photos are included in the photos of our enemies [Sicl."

A significant addition to many of the reports lying about the sacked building is the clause at the end of each statement: "Recommendation: Interrogation with intimidation can bring more facts out of him into light," the ultimate sentence. Death followed inevitably.

Among the documents I found were hundreds of foreign passports, the majority of them belonging to West African nationals - Malian, Nigerian, Congolese, Zairean, Sengalese, and so on. Their owners have long since disappeared into the State Research Center's dungeons and beyond.

One "Top Secret" paper I managed to "liberate" was a cabinet meeting minutes where permission was expressly given to ministers to "shoot to kill" if they thought their lives were in danger. In the final reckoning, Idi Amin managed to execute dozens of these same ministers whose names are listed, the majority for supposed complicity in "subversive attempts" to oust him.

Undoubtedly there were plots. But the cephalopodous network of agents administered by the SRC ensured that none ever reached fruition.

One document emerged from the SRC vaults - all the city's safes were blown open by explosives experts attached to the Tanzanian army on the first morning the invasion force reached Kampala — the file of Ali Amin, one of Big Daddy's 27 children. He spent time in the Center's custody but it is not known if he was released or is still alive.

His appeals to his father are pathetic, as are the official police reports on his progress while in detention. One document stated, he "requires close supervision at



wished.



all times otherwise he is a story-teller and cracks jokes unnecessarily."

No evidence shows that he was ever visited by either his father or any of his other relatives. The file ends inconclusively in early 1977.

Going through these files, I observed the unmistakable British colonial imprint. Everything was notated; each item had its preordained place. Some of the officialese would not have been out of place in London.

Throughout the period of Amin's tyranny, each and every case had its dossier, neatly compiled and detailed as the former imperial government had instructed during decades of British rule.

In the latter period, this system was expanded to include computer control. This machine, too, stands in the Center, damaged by looters who broke it open to see what was inside.

What no one in Kampala - or for that Washington ultimately foresaw, was the lengths to which Idi Amin would go to implement his hideous system.

Nor could anyone envisage that almost 300,000 people would die at the hands of a tyrant, the likes of which had never been seen before in Africa.

It is also tragic that while the world and in particular, the United Nations has spent much of the past decade crowing about South Africa and Rhodesia, oligarch Amin could do what he would with impunity to an entire nation. To the end, he remained tyrannic master of his own domain.

Amin arrived with the Age of the Double Standard. His actions, inevitably, have perpetuated that age.

THE WAR IS OVER—WHAT NEXT?

by Al J. Venter



Main road to Jinja: much of this hardware was brand new and had never been battle-tested.

IVING in the Five Star Kampala International Hotel with squads of patently anti-white Tanzanian troops checking passports and identities is one thing, but being wedged into a corner of a lift by a platoon of them — all drunk — and being poked in the ribs by several Soviet-supplied Kalashnikov assault rifles simultaneously is altogether something else.

It's not the presence of Tanzanians or of thousands of weapons that I found disconcerting in Kampala, but the number of accidental discharges I heard during the week I wandered about the Ugandan countryside certainly was.

Days were punctuated by almost regular blasts of rocket fire in Kampala and Jinja, particularly the latter city, where some of the men are far more trigger-happy than in the capital. It's worse at night when beer and Waragi banana spirit flows. Then erratic salvos of automatic fire became the norm, with tracers often arching through the night sky past our hotel.

Tanzania has received a mixed reception in newly-liberated Uganda. Although largely Tanzanian troops have helped the Ugandan rebels overthrow the tyrant Amin, they have left much desolation in their wake. In the words of a Swedish journalist, a member of our team: "Amin put Uganda back 20 years; the Tanzanians have doubled that figure."

Looting has been widespread. Much of it took place immediately after the invasion, initiated by drunken mobs of Tanzanian troops. Anything that could be moved was placed on empty ammunition trucks and sent back to Dar es Salaam. Looting has been so bad that almost every stove and refrigerator in the Ugandan capital and Jinja have been sent back to Tanzania.

"Someone has got to pay for the war."

Looting also extended to ordinary household goods. One young Tanzanian lieutenant who stayed at the hotel with us had 14 wrist-watches in a bag and another five on his arm. He was proud of his acquisitions. Did he get them from Amin's soldiers? we asked cautiously.

"No," he answered quickly, "we take from the people. They must pay for this war."

I heard many complaints of Tanzanian excesses while I was in the country. Even in the hotel, Tanzanian troops had removed door handles, light-switches and tap faucets to take "back home."

Tanzania has also seized much of the military hardware that Amin left behind, almost all of it new. Some of the tanks and Soviet armored personnel carriers captured at Jinja had never been used;

they were all moved to south of the border.

Something of a scandal was developing about the 11 Ugandan Air Force MiG-21 fighters which Tanzania claimed as war booty while I was there. Originally, there were 18 of these sleek aircraft, all based at Entebbe. Seven were destroyed in the fighting; the rest were flown to Mwanza the day after the strike force entered the airport town, a tidy acquisition for bankrupt socialist Tanzania.

Officially, Tanzanians in Kampala are not prepared to comment on their removal. But each time we could elicit an answer, we got, "Someone has got to pay for the war."

Food remains a major problem. The little meat that comes into the country or is slaughtered locally goes to the 25,000-man invasion force. The rest of us had to make do with *matoka*, a mixture of boiled plantains and yams, and beans.

For those of us who remember the city as it was before Amin, Kampala has assumed a strange, almost surrealistic atmosphere, akin to Luanda in Angola during the final days of Portuguese rule.

On the one hand, the people are hungry; on the other, squads of workers in the city's streets still prune rose bushes and cart away dirt. There is very little beer, but there is *Moet et Chandon* champagne at \$150 a bottle.

Theoretically, getting into Uganda is impossible unless you are routed through Dar es Salaam, the Tanzanian capital, difficult unless you are an avowed member of the ultra-radical left.

In practice, anyone who could charter an aircraft in Nairobi had access to the country. Clearance was obtained by telex from Kampala after names and passport numbers had been referred to Tanzania. On this point, Amin's successors were stringent: no clearance — no entry.

At least one small plane was fired on by Tanzanian ZSU-23-4 four-barreled anti-aircraft batteries while circling Entebbe and waiting permission to land.

One African state has used its army to overthrow another.

The war itself has not been nearly as intense as the Biafran campaign, or as widespread as Ethiopia's vicious Ogaden struggle. Compared to Rhodesia, it's a smoke break. What is important is that one African state has used its army to overthrow another — an important precedent — and 25,000 men-in-arms were used in the campaign.

The war has lasted longer than anticipated with the invasion force vanguard bludgeoning its way through Amin's combined forces at Mutukula on the Uganda-Tanzania border on January 22 this year. Mopping-up will continue for some time to come.

Although hostilities occurred before then, with conflict see-sawing across the border between the two nations, Mutukula was the first decisive Tanzanian blow. Amin's forces reeled in disarray and fled.

Here the Tanzanians captured large quantities of arms, tanks, APCs, and trucks. Much of this equipment was subsequently used in the northward campaign which culminated in Tanzanian troops reaching the Sudanese frontier in early June.

Lethargy has characterized operations on the part of both forces. Granted, there have been a few humdinger battles, such as the fight for Mbarara, south of Kampala, and another at Lira where Tanzania is reported to have lost more than 200 men. Otherwise, the war was a slow northward grind with the majority of Amin's forces getting out while the going was good.

Although the Tanzanians proved to be better disciplined than the rest when actually on the march or in the process of taking the next strongpoint, they also emerged as more thorough looters than Amin's Ugandan force. They left no safe intact in any town they visited.

As fighters, the Tanzanians proved a better caliber than some other black armies on this continent. Certainly, they outshone the Nigerians, or for that matter the Ethiopians in the Ogaden war, when it came to exchanging blows. They made the Mozambicans and Angolans look like am-

ateurs. At the same time one got the impression that there were not many among them that actually had the spark to see a real fire-fight.

Throughout the war, tactics were duplicated for each target. In the words of Vietnam vet corresondent Matt Franjola, who covered the Ugandan operation: "It was almost as if all the officers had carefully studied a 1930 British Infantryman's Handbook. Much of it was so predictable."



Long columns of troops marched in line ahead to a certain point, usually with a couple of Soviet tanks in the van. The column that took Jinja, Tororo, Mbale and Soroti had three tanks ahead, two T34s and one T54.

At a certain point the column was called to a halt. Then, from the rear, three Russian ZIL trucks with BM-24 rocket mountings pulverized the area ahead, often eight to 10 miles away. Once everyone was satisfied that the target area had been softened up, the column would start again. Shortly afterwards, they would stop and the routine would be repeated. It is clear that this system has been adopted as the Tanzanian army's standard attack routine.

There were a few variations to the theme. One, the attack on Lira in the north, comes to mind: a duplication of the Entebbe attack a month before.

In a bid to cut off Amin's retreating force, a column of several hundred Tanzanian commandos marched through the night to take up a position about 30 miles behind the enemy, passing through swampy country, some of it nearly impassable. That they achieved their objective at all is creditable.

Ambushes were textbook affairs.

The next morning a major battle ensued when Amin's rearguard was surprised as they pulled northward out of Lira. Hundreds of the dictator's troops were ambushed and killed.

Ambushes were standard textbook affairs, showing East Germany's and Cuba's training of the Tanzania People's Defense Force (TPDF).

At one point along the main Kampala-Entebbe road, the same stratagem was applied four times consecutively, with four groups of Amin forces — and one sizable group of Libyans — walking into the same box trap. These ambush sites were usually placed on a high point overlooking the approach road.

The favorite weapons in these frays were invariably the AK and SKS with RPG-7s and RPD light machine guns providing back-up. There was also a sizable quantity of Portuguese weapons, including the ubiquitous G-3, underscoring the fact that many of these Tanzanian troops had only a short time previously been deployed in Mozambique along Rhodesia's border.

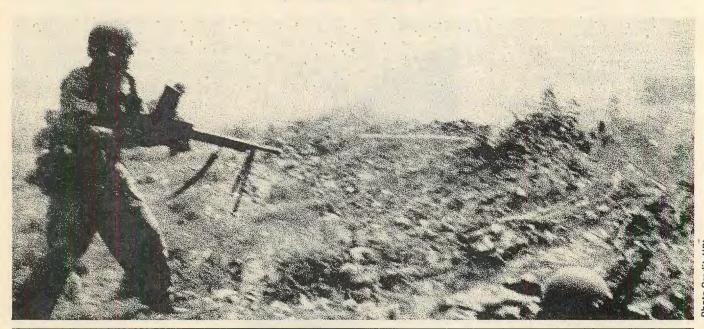
Overall, the Tanzanians had the edge, due to two campaign factors.

First, the Save Uganda Movement (SUM) managed to infiltrate much of southern Uganda in the immediate period prior to the invasion. They were responsible for numerous acts of sabotage: on several occasions they were able to cut Kampala's power and water. Others ambushed small patrols and cut telephone Continued on page 77

UNSUNG WARRIORS

FRENCH PARAS IN INDOCHINA

by Duane Tigges



TIOTO CLEGIT: UP

No combat organization was less well-known to the general public than the Groupment de Commandos Mixtes Aeroportes (Composite Airborne Commando Groups), a long-range penetration force which carried out guerrilla warfare under appalling conditions in the mountains of northern Vietnam in the long, bloody history of the First Indo-China War which French Union Forces fought, principally in Vietnam and Laos from 1946 until the fall of Dien Bien Phu in May 1954.

Bernard Fall, the most knowledgeable authority on the Indo-China War, tells us that the concept of the G.C.M.A. was founded on the experiences of the British Chindits of General Orde Wingate and the 5307th Composite Group, (Merrill's Marauders) of Brigadier General Frank Merrill in Burma during World War II. However, while the Chindits and the Marauders had enjoyed fixed supply bases to which they returned periodically, the G.C.M.A. was designed to remain permanently in the field to interdict communist supply lines and to tie down Viet Minh forces in their own rear areas. In a word, Viet Minh strategy in reverse.

These groups, first organized in 1951, consisted of a base force of perhaps 400 natives, principally tribesmen of the Tai Federation, who were strongly anticommunist. For then as now, the Montagnards of the hills disliked the lowland Vietnamese because of the exploitation

they had suffered at their hands. Under the French, they had enjoyed a measure of independence and so were natural allies.

They were commanded for the most part by French NCOs or a lieutenant, who, speaking the language perfectly, lived with them and adopted their customs, often marrying into the tribes and becoming one of them. This adoption of the native way of life sometimes had its disadvantages, for like all primitive people, the Tai were very superstitious and the generals and paper pushers in Hanoi and Saigon were often enraged when an operation they had planned was postponed in the field because a local medicine man had decided that particular day was unlucky or that the spirits would be against them.

HE warfare they waged in the jungle was the most brutal imaginable, a war in the shadows, where the idea of asking or giving quarter was not considered, and where they fought from the outset, with constant shortages of weapons and material.

They often operated as much as 300 miles behind enemy lines and it is said that a few groups even penetrated into Red China.

Because of distances and terrain involved, all supplies had to be airdropped to them, usually in some remote jungle clear-

ing that had been prearranged by radio, their only link with the outside world.

Of special interest to the student of this type of warfare is the fact that many of these groups were often commanded by corporals and sergeants. The French never attempted to give them temporary ranks to go with their positions, as they realized that to the natives, rank, as such, meant very little. It was the man they followed.

So it was that there were corporals making tactical and logistical decisions for battalion-sized organizations, a task usually reserved for majors and lieutenant colonels. They had proved by the very fact that they were alive that they could handle the job. Those that made a mistake didn't live long enough to make another.

HE combined effects of this particularly brutal form of warfare, the ungodly terrain, the climate, and the numerous diseases a man could fall prey to, to say nothing of the enemy, got the best of many who were assigned to the G.C.M.A. Under such conditions bodies or minds snapped.

But they considered that the worst thing that could happen to them was to be wounded in action, for that would mean being dragged for miles through the jungle. The wounded were never left

behind, since if they were captured they would certainly be tortured to obtain the vital information necessary for the group's survival. A man might have to be paddled down some remote jungle river for three days and nights just to get to a secret airstrip that had been cleared in the jungle where he could be picked up and flown out to where he could get aid. That is, if there were an aircraft available, and if the weather were right, and if they had managed to make contact with the outside at all on their weak radio sets.

Just as bad as being wounded was the ever-present fear of a traitor in their midst, the lone agent of the dreaded 421 Intelligence Battalion of the Viet Minh who could finger them for assassination, for, all alone as they were, nothing would have been easier.

STILL another hazard was the psychological, "endless-tunnel" aspect of the whole thing. For, after having mastered that form of warfare, a long, difficult process, the man was irreplaceable due to his specialized knowledge, so the French commando could be sure that he would be sent out into the jungle again and again until his luck ran out. There was no specific number of missions to be completed or time spent at the job before he was relieved. Nothing to look forward to at all, short of the end of the war itself.

Yet they did their jobs well, tying down Viet Minh forces far superior to their own numbers, as evidenced by one communist dispatch which was intercepted. Sent by the political commissar of Communist Battalion 700 in the spring of 1953, it said:

"....The French imperialists have succeeded in leaving behind them their agents who continue to be a nuisance to us. At the beginning they were only a handful but now, the rebel movement against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has increased in speed of movement as well as numbers. There must be at least two thousand of them now.

"This movement begins to worry us seriously. A large part of our forces is pinned down in mopping up operations against the rebels. The reason for the great extension of the rebel movement and why it succeeds in holding out against us stems from the fact that we are not supported by popular opinion."

By the end of 1953 some G.C.M.A. operations began to take on strategic importance. One of the most brilliant was executed on October 3, 1953, when 600 Tai and Meo tribesmen raided Lao-Kay, a city on the Sino-Vietnamese border, and an important supply depot for the Viet Minh. Supported by a platoon of French paratroopers and reinforced by intensive bombing by B-26s, the raiders destroyed large ammo and supply dumps and killed about 150 communists before fading back into the hills. The French paratroops

withdrew with them and were handed back to the French airhead at Lai-Chau from one commando group to another.

In other operations, G.C.M.A.s for all practical purposes reconquered the two Laotion provinces of Phong-Saly and Samvena all by themselves and interdicted communist supply lines between Lai-Chau, which had been abandoned by the French, and Dien Bien Phu during the siege.

OWEVER, these guerrilla operations could not by themselves win the war, which was decided in a far-away valley with the unlikely name of "Seat of the Border County Prefecture," or in Vietnamese, Dien Bien Phu. The G.C.M.A.s carried out their mission of guerrilla warfare well, but to expect them to do more would have required a level of tactical training and coordination that could not be expected of primitive tribesmen.

When the cease-fire came into effect in July 1954, the French made frantic efforts to broadcast messages to the various G.C.M.A.s still operating behind enemy lines, mostly in Northwest Tonkin, instructing them to fall back on Laos or the 17th Parallel. But for many the messages came too late and the Bamboo Curtain fell down on them for good. Many of the Tai or Meo tribesmen did not feel that they could leave their families to the communists and their "People's Courts" and firing squads, and, in most cases, the Frenchmen who were with them, for one reason or another, stayed with them to fight to the end.

One by one, the radio sets fell silent as the communists hunted down the last remaining G.C.M.A.s still operating. French officers in Laos recalled with horror the last message that came in over two years after the fighting had officially stopped and the French voice in the far-away hills that said:

"You sons of bitchs, help us! Help us! Parachute us at least some ammunition so that we can die fighting instead of being slaughtered like animals!"

But the last French troops left Indo-China in April 1956, and there would be no supply drop.

I ET supply drop or no supply drop, the fighting went on until as late as 1959 when at last a lone French captain made his way out of the hills into Laos after a hair-raising 500-mile trek through the jungle. He is the last known survivor. And that, for the G.C.M.A., was that.

If there is any justice then there must be a special place in Valhalla for men like



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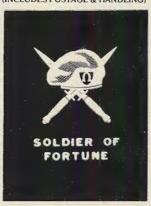
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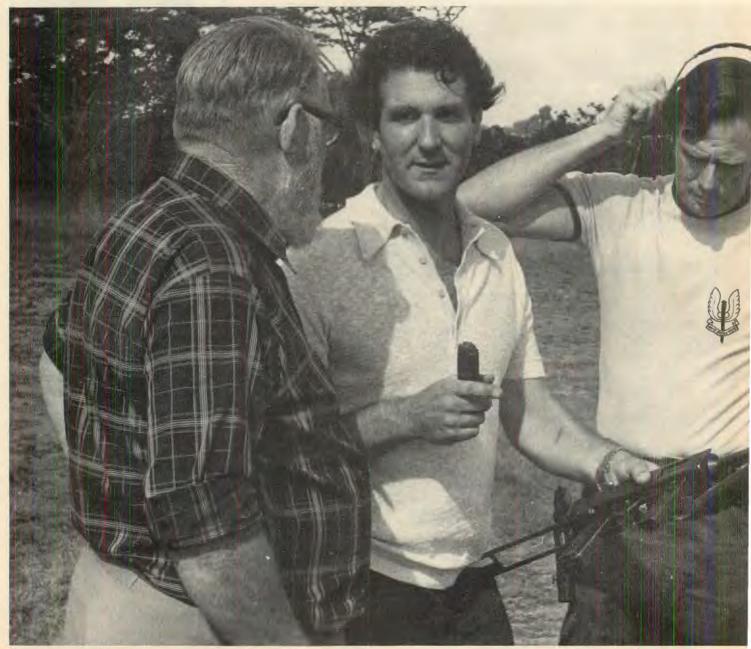
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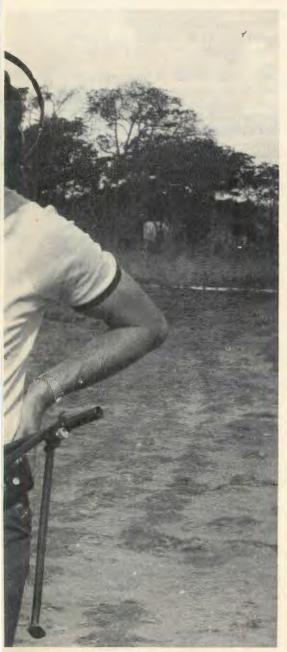
SOF Interviews Rhodesian Shooting/Visi

by Robert K. Brown



SERVINE T

on Expert



On a recent trip to Rhodesia, SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown met Daye Westerhout, shown far right in picture. Westerhout, an optician, was named 1977 Rhodesian Sportsman of the Year. He represented Rhodesia in the 1979 South Africa International Practical Pistol Championships. Westerhout has done pioneer work in developing soft lenses for shooters.

SOF: Is excellent vision a priority in shooting well?

WESTERHOUT: No, I've noticed that quite often we have very successful competitive shooters coming in for orthodox eye examinations and quite often their visual acuity is mediocre. They are perhaps no better than the average member of the public.

It is not necessary to have superb visual acquity in order to perform well. The other priorities are holding the weapon, clear control, judgment of wind and so on, sight alignment, etc. These are probably far more important than the actual standard of acuity.

SOF: What about the difference, if any, between combat shooting and target pistol shooting?

WESTERHOUT: When it comes to practical pistol shooting, as opposed to the International Shooting Union type, I would say that the difference is slightly greater, because the International Shooting Union shooter, the regular target shooter, may require a greater depth of focus to obtain a really good result on, say, free pistol shooting, than he would if he were combat pistol shooting. After all, in combat pistol shooting, there is never time to get a perfect sight picture, perfect sight alignment — you simply line up the sights as best you can with the center of a large target. And, therefore, the standard of vision you require is probably not as good. SOF: You say proper control and sight alignment are two important aspects of accurate distance shooting. What about the importance of concentration, position, smooth and rapid draw, and ability to maintain a steady hand?

WESTERHOUT: Of course, they are all perfectly valid and contributory factors. Obviously, it's not good having a superb

sight alignment and trigger squeeze, if you can't hold the weapon steady. But, I would say, these other points you mention are of secondary importance. You can have the smoothest draw in the world, you can be very good with your weapon handling, you can get the weapon up in a steady position, you can have a steady hand, but if you don't get that final sight alignment right — or worse still — if you work the trigger, you may as well forget about all the other basics, because they are unimportant compared with the really important priorities.

SOF: In some instances you have prescribed lenses which actually make the shooter near-sighted. What about the use of such a device to help the shooter improve his sight picture?

WESTERHOUT: We don't want all shooters to use a near-sighted device simply because many of them, for example my own case, are not distracted by the target. We find it possible to concentrate on a good sight picture to the exclusion of the target. And it's nice for us to be able to look over the sights at the target from time to time to reassure ourselves that we are lined up properly with the target. If I were forced to use a near-sighted correction, for example, I would not be able to see the target, and I would lose some of the confidence in my alignment that I now have. So, those people who can look and concentrate on the sights with their normal distance vision are better off doing that. It's only the person who can't concentrate, who is distracted by the target, who is going to benefit materially from using a short-sighted prescription.

SOF: Do you find that after using a nearsighted vision device the pupil, at a future point in time, is able to compete without it? In other words, is it a crutch he will continue to lean on, or a training device he can dispense with?

WESTERHOUT: Although we've had insufficient experience for absolute conclusions, my own experience has been that once the training aid has been used to teach the pupil the importance of a really clear sight picture, once he's learned that and to concentrate his attention on the sights, you can then afford to remove the optical crutch. Now he's got slightly better vision of the target as well, which is preferable. Obviously, if you can see both of them, you are even better off.

We've been doing some work recently in Rhodesia with some special contact lenses made with an artificially small pupil. You may know that many people shoot very accurate groups with pistols by looking through shooting glasses with small pieces of paper stuck on them with tiny holes simulating an aperture effect. This gives them a great depth of focus just as using a camera on f/16 instead of f/3.5 gives you much better depth of focus — so they can see the target and the sights. Now, if you can do that artificially with a contact lens, you can produce the same depth of focus. And, in fact, I was speaking recently to a friend of mine who has been using such an appliance for both target and combat shooting. He's found the depth of focus, although he's only 35, to be of enormous value. These special artificial pupil contact lenses can be of value to people who have shooting problems.

SOF: How does this apply to combat shooting? Would it make any difference when you're shooting silhouette targets within, say, 25 meters?

WESTERHOUT: I don't use these appliances myself, but my friend, also an optometrist, after using these lenses three weeks or so, tells me it's been of great value to him in combat shooting in particular. Now, he says he notices a loss of field vision in the eye using the appliance, but he more than makes up for that by opening his other eye. So he's getting a good, all-round picture with his nonshooting eye, whilst getting a clear sight and target picture with great depth of focus in the eye where he's wearing the special appliance.

SOF: In rifle shooting, you not only have to identify the bull at 600 meters, but, even more important, you have to be able to pick out your butt number. I would think with a near-sighted device like this you would have great difficulty in identifying your butt number.

WESTERHOUT: Sure, your target number indication is very important. Shooting at someone else's target is never a very popular thing to do. And it's absolutely vital that you retain sufficient distance vision for this. I think perhaps this question arises from a lack of understanding of the small amount of short-sighted help you can give the shooter.

In a situation like this, the extra power you give him to help him focus on a near object, like the front sight, is very small. And the slight blurring of the distance would be minimal, especially for rifle shooting. The big advantage for rifle shooting is, with a long barrel, that the front sight is quite a long way from the eye. And the shooter can get a pretty clear front sight picture with a very small addition to this distance prescription, which would not be sufficiently blurred to make him unable to read his target number.

SOF: What particulars should a shooter look for when he selects an optometrist to assist him in getting the proper lens for shooting?

WESTERHOUT: I would be reluctant to suggest a man change his normal practitioner for ethical reasons, of course, but if you consult someone for a specialist opinion in a certain field, the more the man knows about it, the better. So if you hap-



pen to know that one of your local eyecare practitioners, an opthomologist or optometrist, happens to be keen on competitive shooting, he may well be able to give you some advice that a man less familiar with the sport would not be able to. I'm not suggesting optometrists don't know the answers to these questions, but those of us who are familiar with the problems from actual usage and participation are probably a little more familiar with solutions to the problems.

SOF: Is it necessary that the optometrist or eye-care individual be a shooter?

WESTERHOUT: Certainly not. I've known many optometrists who are expert in this field who never fired a shot from a weapon in their lives.

SOF: What does the optometrist have to know to be helpful?

WESTERHOUT: The optometrist must have information on what you're trying to achieve in order to help you properly, and if he's going to work on a compromise, it's even more important that he understand the basics. So, it's probably better if you actually consult him for a variety of rifle shooting tasks, taking some information with you. Measure the distance from your eye to your front sight and tell him

the exact dimensions of your target and the various distances, so that he can fully understand the amount of compromise possible if you're going to achieve good short-range and long-range performance.

Obviously, the targets used at the various ranges are all comparable in the sense of the angle that they actually subtain to the eye. And if the resolution powers of the eye are kept the same with the same extra power, then the performance will be very much the same whether the target's at 200 meters or 800 meters, because the targets are proportionately sized. That shouldn't be much of a problem. At anything much over 20 feet, the eve performance is much the same. whether the distance is 50 meters or 500 meters. Therefore, you shouldn't have too much of a problem, although individual reactions to these compromises are somewhat different. Some people want a very blurred target and a very clear front sight. Others prefer to have both the front sight and the target slightly blurred. Other people can only work with a clear target, in which case they are going to be handicapped, especially when they've reached the age of 40.

SOF: You mentioned that the patient should ask the optometrist to lend him lenses of different powers. How does he utilize these? What is the procedure?

WESTERHOUT: The optometrist should give you ordinary spectacles for your ordinary day-to-day visual tasks that would give you clear distance vision. But this would not give you a clear enough sight picture, especially if you're getting into the 40s and over. If he lends you lenses of different powers, you would simply use some tape to stick them on top of the distance spectacles that you have been provided with - your most recent prescription. By taping them in front and getting down to a shooting position, you will very quickly, if you alternate them, find the extra power addition that seems to give you the best results with your particular sight picture, the particular compromise you are looking for.

Indeed, I have found that actually examining patients on the range, with a trial case of lenses, has been the most satisfactory way of getting a good result. Otherwise the patient in the consulting room will say, for example, a lens of power of 1/2 a unit seems to work best in the consulting room, but when he gets out there on the range, he is very unhappy with the blurred target, and maybe 1/4 of a unit would have been a better compromise for him. So if he's able to do a few shots on the range actually using extra trial lenses stuck on top of his normal prescription, this is perhaps the best way of finding out. It's the best method if the practitioner is not able to accompany the patient to the

SOF: What are 1/4 power and 1/2 power units?

Continued on page 86

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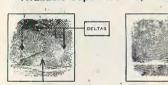


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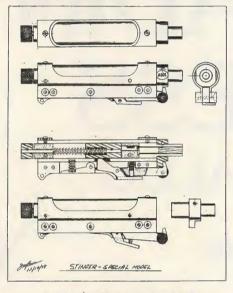
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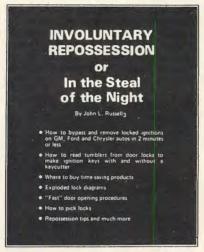
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This document is AMF's never- before available, final report on a lengthy, thorough evaluation of the effectiveness of silencers. Covers silencers for the Swedish K SMG, Sten Mark II SMG, Madsen Model 1950 SMG, Beretta Model 12, Uvi, 1903 Springfield, F.N. and F.A.L. Assault Rifle, Luger P-08 and the Beretta Model 1934. Fact crammed chapters include: 1. Packing of Muzzel Silencers; 2. Materials for Packing; 3. Methods to Reduce Mechanical Noise; 4. Field Test Data; 5. Conclusions; 6. Safety Accessories and; 7. Product Engineering. A must companion volume to Silencers-Report 1896 by Frankford Arsenal. 51/2x 81/2, 208 pp., 59 illustrations, soft cover. ISBN 0-87364-018-7 \$7.95

FIREARMS SILENCERS by Donald B. McLean

This is a basic reference text complete with a digest of U.S. and Canadian laws on silencers. Designs are revealed in over 200 photos and line drawings plus patent specifications. Included are double-barrelled silencers, oddball silencers, homemade silencers, silencers for pistols, rifles, submachine guns and shotguns. Design and development is emphasized in clear and concise language; illustrations complement the descriptions. 150 pp., 5½x8½, illustrated, soft cover.



SILENCERS! REPORT 1896

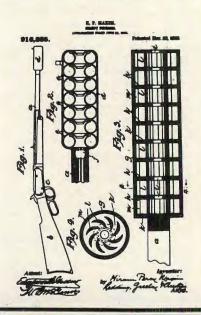
This report presents physical and functional descriptions and accoustical evaluation of various domestic and foreign silencers and silenced small arms weapons. Included are crosssectional drawings and external view photographs of all systems tested. An accoustical evaluation of each system is given in the form of far field sound pressure time records. All major constituents of sound signatures are identified and time-correlated with their source in the system. Additionally, the report presents a record of silencing principles and a theoretical analysis of the various noise generating phenomena. A must for every gun library! 8 x 10, 214 pp., over 100 illustrations and diagrams. Hard Cover, ISBN 0-87364-016-0 \$10.95 Soft Cover, ISBN 0-87364-017-0 \$9.95

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Revealing information on the development and use of silencers including unique photos of the IRA's use of silencers and silenced weapons systems used by clandestine agents throughout the world! An inside look at how the Mafia, law enforcement agencies and radical groups use silencers for "quiet killing." A must for your weapons library! 80 pp., 5½ x 8½, 40 photos. Soft Cover, ISBN 0-87364-014-4 \$5.00

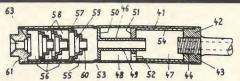




SILENCERS, SNIPERS & ASSASSINS by J. David Truby

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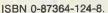
European Patents, the long awaited companion to U.S. Silencer Patents, is the final result of an intensive international research effort encompassing Great Britain, France, Germany, Norway, Italy, Denmark, and Austria. Every silencer patent ever registered with the patent offices of these countries is included! The 80 patents presented serve to put the development of the firearms silencer into true historical perspective. One of its sections is comprised completely of rare Nazi Silencer Patents. Note: Since European Patents consists of original reproductions, many of the patents it presents are written in a European language. 8 x 10, softcover, 253 pp., hundreds of illustrations, ISBN 0-87364-192-7. \$15.00



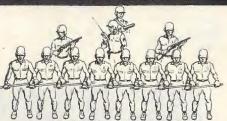
Terrorism

HOW TERRORISTS KILL The Complete Terrorist Arsenal By J. David Truby

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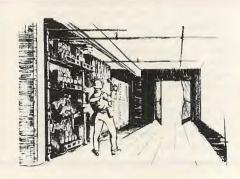
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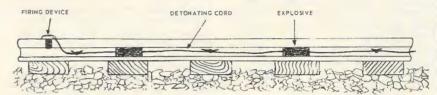


THE CONDUCT OF ANTI-TERRORIST OPERATIONS IN MALAYA

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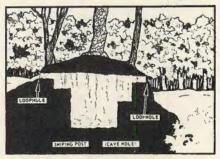
Alive In The Desert is intended for both the traveller going toward or through the desert, as well as the survivalist. It begins with a realistic portrayal of dangers inherent in desert recreation and travel, then provides all the survival information necessary to avoid these dangers. Kraus explains how to find water and food, to build shelter and fires, and plot a course back to civilization. The pleasures and beauty of the desert are also presented in over fifty illustrations and photographs of various desert terrain, plants, and animals, 6 x 9, softcover, 130 pp., over 50 photos and illustrations, ISBN 0-87364-127-2. \$5.95

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Note: due to legislation by the Canadian Solicitor General, **How To Kill I, II, & III** are **not** available in Canada.

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UGANDA

Continued from page 59

wires or provided intelligence. These factors together contributed much to the subsequent demoralization of government forces.

Second, there was the lackluster ability of Amin's main counter-strike force. Many Amin stalwarts were so reluctant to fight that on several occasions Libyan forces had to be called in to haul them out of their barracks as the Tanzanians approached. Only after the Libyans had summarily executed several recalcitrants did a few of the men show a little spunk.

We'll hear of Tanzania's army again.

The Tanzanians proved themselves able to fight with surprisingly little back-up, logistics on the long haul from Dar es Salaam sometimes being non-existent. As long as they had enough ammo, they would follow their officers, living off the land and sharing what little other food came their way. Also, few Tanzanians were allowed the luxury of transport until after Kampala had been taken, the majority of the army marching the hundreds of miles it took to get them to the capital and beyond.

This is probably one reason why Tanzanian soldiers were so eager to commandeer whatever vehicles were on the roads. They would often take a car at gunpoint, including a few from some of my journalistic colleagues.

Security was an important consideration to members of the press corps who found themselves in Uganda during the war. In this black-against-black campaign we whites were regarded as interlopers and with considerable suspicion if we held Western passports. Tanzania has never taken kindly to free press and none of us doubted our presence was suspect.

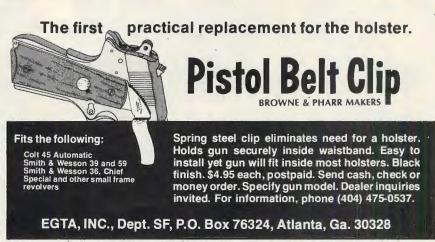
All of us, except one American freelancer, Tony Avirgan, who has worked out of Dar es Salaam for the past five years, and who had State House (Tanzania) clearance to accompany Tanzanian troops to the front: his were the only reports to come out of the war zones. It goes without saying that Avirgan is renowned for his anti-U.S., anti-Western sentiments.

Our activities were viewed with suspicion, especially if we had cameras. Ray Wilkinson of United Press International had his face pushed in by one Tanzanian half-Colonel who made no secret of the fact that he "hated whites."

Unfortunately, having pulled off one coup in Africa, we're likely to hear of Tanzania in a military context again in the not-too-distant future — maybe this time in Rhodesia.

Continued on page 84











Roxo in a maize field giving instructions to his men. Roxo had intimate knowledge of terrain, and most of his troops had been with him for years. This paid off in more KIAs than the entire Portuguese colonial army. Weapons and uniforms captured from the enemy.

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THE WHITE DEVIL OF MOZAMBIQUE

ONE-MAN ARMY AGAINST FRELIMO

by S. Nielsen

THE big-game hunter was preoccupied with making a head-count when the leopard attacked. Who would expect an early morning attack? His rifle was not close by. Man and beast struggled for over an hour. The hunter bit the leopard, until the animal's body was covered with wounds. The man did not even have a hunting knife, and soon all his protective clothing was stripped away by the leopard's mad clawing. Finally, naked and covered with blood, the hunter succeeded in getting a death grip. He felt the lithe, muscular body weaken, relax, and fall to the ground, neck broken.

The man was Daniel Francisco Roxo — an African legend. A one-man army

whose head price was \$100,000. A warrior whose troops of less than 100 killed more Frelimo terrorists in Mozambique than the Portuguese colonial army of 60,000. A man who strangled a leopard with his hands. A merciless killer, but a man who refused to torture the enemy. A man with an African wife and six children, who loved his home life. A man of charisma and controversy, of fact and fiction.

Roxo was born in 1933 in northeast Portugal, a tough, mountainous area, whose people are known for being hardworking, brave — and enjoying good wine. Roxo emigrated to Mozambique in the early '50s, and worked there first as a civil servant. He helped construct a



ABOVE: Roxo with medals won for valour in the field, including two of Portugal's highest bravery award, the Cross of War. RIGHT: Taking aim with a captured Kalashnikov.

railway line, and finally became a big game hunter in Niassa Province, northwest Mozambique. Big game hunters are a special breed, perhaps an endangered species in Africa. Roxo had to change his target when Frelimo (a communistsupplied Mozambique liberation front) started terrorizing the countryside in the early 1960s. His deadly aim focused on those who destroyed his livelihood, Africa's game. He grew to hate those he regarded as the cause of it all - Frelimo.

WE DIE AS WE LIVE

Roxo offered his services to the Portuguese army, first as tracker, then as leader of an irregular band of 90. He was the only white man in the unit. The "white devil of Niassa" demanded discipline worthy of the highest military traditions. He combined modern military methods with guerrilla tactics. His

fellow hunters, even men recruited from Frelimo ranks. They went untracked because they wore captured enemy boots. They knew the operating procedures of the enemy and gave no quarter. They were so familiar with enemy weapons that they could immediately take them up and use them.

Roxo defined his war and his territory. He always knew the exact strength and location of the enemy before tracking. He refused to operate outside his own province, where he knew every inch of the terrain. He was ruthless and only took

prisoners for interrogation. Discipline was immediate, but Roxo always disclaimed the story that he summarily punished his men or even executed them. Disobeving orders certainly meant more than a dressing-down or a tongue lashing. Troops had to proceed not less than 10 yards apart to minimize losses in case of an ambush. If the rules were broken, Roxo warned only once.

He said, "It's normal to be brave. To risk danger is itself a sign of bravery. We all choose the manner in which we live. It is often the way in which we will die." Prophetic words...

ROXO'S SUPERNATURAL POWERS

Roxo was like a bush animal. He would indicate the presence of the enemy to his men by tapping his nose. He could smell them at a distance of 100-200 meters, he claimed, and even as far as 500 if the wind was right. The enemy thought that Roxo possessed supernatural powers.

During one mission, Roxo caught a terrorist, disarmed him, and through nottoo-subtle interrogation, found out from the black man where his comrades were. In the meantime, however, the terrorists had learned Roxo's location. They prepared an ambush.

There was only one way for Roxo to reach the terrorist camp: a narrow footpath through the thick forest. The terrorists planted a landmine and waited for Roxo to come along. The mine was so well-placed that the first of Roxo's group

followers were desperadoes, old trackers,

did not see it, but passed safely. The terrs waited breathlessly. Roxo went over it next. Still nothing. The third in the indian-file was the captured terrorist. Instantly an explosion, a cloud of dust, and a cry of death. Before the dust even settled, Roxo and his men were hidden in the bush. The terrorist's body was blown apart, and his friends melted into the deep forest, running to get away from the white devil.

THE CHINESE CONNECTION

In 1968, Roxo was awarded the Portuguese Cross for exceptional bravery and devotion. However, he only received it a

year later — women came between him and one of Portugal's highest decorations.

"It was not unreasonable thirst for terrorist blood," he said, "but my own fault. I was too greedy ... for women. I think they have the ability to drive men crazy."

Roxo had learned from spies in Tanzania that Chinese nurses were in a terrorist hospital in the Tenga hills, about 200 kilometers from the Tanzanian border. To reach the camp, Roxo and his troops had to cross the Luangua River, which was in full flood at that time of year. He baited his men for the operation





UPPER RIGHT: Roxo delivers fallen comrade. In over 10 years of fighting, he lost only three men. ABOVE: Relaxing at home with two of his six children. Captured weapons decorate his house.

with the mystique associated with Chinese girls. He said they could help themselves, but "save one for me."

The group of 22 men quickly understood why the camp had not been hit before; it was a long, tiring march through difficult terrain riddled with terrorist camps. As they approached the Luangua River flood plain, they ran into a terrorist patrol and managed to bring down five out of seven. Roxo knew that the two who escaped would alert the terrorist camp and hospital. Time was of the essence, but the river had to be crossed. Roxo gave orders to his men to wait in an ideal ambush position. Then, he went on recon to locate the terrorist base. The agreed signal was the sound of a night owl.

Roxo could smell the river. It had to be nearby. By twilight, he was moving up its banks. His keen sense of smell detected the odor of cassava, a potato-like plant, a staple African food. Roxo knew he was close, and continued forward with caution. Suddenly, in front of him a shadow - the camp guard. The terrorist camp was only a few yards away, but Roxo knew the guard would go off duty in a few minutes. The terrs kept banking hours guard duty from 0500 to 1900 only. At exactly 1900, the terrorist started returning to base. Roxo followed, and there was the camp, neatly spread out along the river. It consisted of huts made of branches, grass and mud, basically hidden under the African vegetation, invisible from the air. A camp of at least 100 terrs.

THE NIGHT OWL AND THE JACKAL

Roxo planned carefully. He knew that with his small force, he could not cut off all escape routes. A quick surprise action was the only way to go.

Within seconds of the night owl's call, Roxo's men were in place. He told them what to do by drawing his hand across his throat. The guards coming on duty at 0500 must be removed as the first piece of business. With his hands, Roxo indicated

that it would happen at sunrise. His men immediately understood his directions, and they systematically surrounded the camp. Five minutes to remove the guards. Attack at the call of the jackal. Now!

Roxo not only directed, he was in the center of the fray. His hunting knife already resheathed, after being wiped in the grass, having done its duty. Four terrorists dispatched, yet not a leaf moved. The camp was stirring. A bundle of automatic rifles leaning against a barrel caught Roxo's eye.

The cry of the jackal pierced the morning air. Roxo and his 22 men hit the camp by storm. Roxo was in the middle, kicking the rifles, getting them out of the way. Fifteen terrorlsts were down. Permanently. The men used bayonets, killing the terrs as they ran past.

Roxo took a bad shot in the leg, but it didn't slow him down. Suddenly, it was over. The last of the Frelimo took to their heels. Roxo's men were all intact, but extremely tired. They had not slept in days. Thirty-six terrorists were dead.

THE LONG MARCH BACK

Roxo was very far from base and the nearest military installation was a few hundred kilometers away. Roxo was standing in a pool of blood. His men did not notice because they were attaching Roxo's famous calling cards to the chests of the dead: cards with a broad black border, white background, and a distinct black cross on the front. Roxo had signed them all.

But the operation was not yet over. Four men were sent across the flooding river. They obeyed without question. They were ordered to look for a supply store or ammunition. In the meantime, Roxo sat down with the taste of blood in his mouth. Only then, did his men realize that he was wounded. The four men returned with food and ammunition. Roxo's suspicions were right. Yet, the men were still disappointed. Where were the Chinese nurses? Maybe, next time. With a wounded leader, they knew they had to return to base.

For the next 12 hours, Roxo was carried through the jungle on his men's backs. There was no question of using a stretcher. Near the trip's end, he had to be tied on, he was so weak. Throughout the entire trip, there was no talking and no eating. The march's pace was only broken when Roxo was transferred from one back to another. Finally, they reached a military camp and Roxo got medical help. Within a couple of weeks he was fit and ready to go.

STILL WOMAN CRAZY

Roxo, a determined man, had not forgotten the Chinese nurses. Besides, he had admitted to his wife that he was convinced that the terrorist bullet hit him because he was too concerned about getting a Chinese nurse. He had to prove he

was right. The circumstances were also more advantageous.

Roxo received intelligence from army leaders that commandos had invaded the region where he had just been and cleared out the Frelimo bases. The terrs had fled to Tanzania.

This time Roxo's group crossed the river like a Sunday picnic. On their way to Tenga, they questioned locals about terr activities. They noticed a child with a wound dressed with professional care. The child admitted he had been looked after by Chinese nurses at the Tenga hospital.

Roxo and his men never did find those elusive Chinese nurses, but another distraction awaited Roxo back at base.

Radio Peking, Radio Moscow and Radio Tanzania all announced Roxo's death to the world in glowing terms. His leg wound had been reported as fatal. Just more publicity for Roxo, whose answer to it all was: "Ever since those damned broadcasts, the Frelimo have received enough of my 'death' cards to build a house of cards."

THE HUNTER

Roxo's prowess as a hunter was legendary. He worked downwind from the enemy just like a lion or any beast of prey on the hunt. He mastered animal and bird calls and used them to signal to his men. His reactions were immediate. There is a story that he ran down a Frelimo and simply caught him by the collar, tearing the man's rifle out of his hand.

Another time, his group startled a gazelle while on the march. It ran diagonally across their path. Roxo Immediately dropped his rifle and raced towards the gazelle, grabbed it in mid-

leap, and snapped its neck in one flowing movement.

This was the same method he used in tracking down terrorists. He said of himself, "I place myself in the skin of a Frelimo and I think with an African's brain. That way I work out what he will do next. Nineteen times out of 20 I am right."

UNORTHODOXY WINS

Roxo's unorthodox methods sometimes raised army eyebrows. For example, his plan to free citizens abducted by terrorists. Part of the terrorist strategy was to intimidate and terrorize the local population by "relocating" them. They were taken over the border to Tanzania. Some were trained as soldiers or ammunition carriers. Others were used as cooks or forced to cultivate terrorist food crops. Many of the women were raped. All were heavily indoctrinated.

Roxo's job was to free the displaced people and get them to protected areas. He learned of a terrorist camp about 400 kilometers from Vila Cabral, his home base, which reportedly held 400 local people hostage. Roxo ordered 17 men to dress like the hostages and infiltrate the camp. The men, dressed in rags, were quickly accepted in the camp, and soon knew the routine. At night, one or two would slip away and report to Roxo. He planned to start the attack before dawn. He arrived at 0400 to check out the camp. He signaled the men by animal sounds and they sneaked out of the camp to collect weapons and ammunition from him, before slipping back into camp. They attacked at 0500. Confusion was total: the terrorists were being attacked from within. Before they could get organized, five were dead, four captured - the rest

MOZAMBIQUE — more than 308,000 square miles of fertile land situated across the channel from Madagascar, bordered by the Indian Ocean, South Africa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, Zambia, Malawi, and Tanzania. More than 95 percent of the population of 10 million is made up of black Africans, most of whom speak a Bantu dialect. Before the independence agreement, there were about 170,000 whites (largely Portuguese).

Mozambique is overwhelmingly agricultural, with the majority of blacks engaged in subsistence cultivation. The principal crops are maize, cassava, pulses, rice, potatoes, plantains, groundnuts, and sesame. Cotton and cashew nuts are the main cash crops. Mineral wealth remains largely unexplored. However, the Cabora Bassa hydro-electric project,

begun in 1969 across the Zambesi River, will be the largest electrical supplier in all Africa and will facilitate industrial growth in Mozambique and surrounding countries. Mozambique also derives considerable income from moving goods from landlocked countries to her ports.

Mozambique was occupied at the beginning of the 16th century by Portuguese explorers. The Portuguese never successfully dominated the interior and their influence was mainly destructive. Forced labor and slavery were rampant.

After the 1926 revolution in Portugal, the mother country took more interest in her African colonies: Angola, Guinea, and Mozambique. The home government tried to push economic development and black "assimilation." In 1951, Mozambique became an "overseas province," and in 1972 a "self-governing" state. However, by that time nationalist sentiment could no longer be assuaged.

disappeared into the bush. The hostages were freed and returned home.

ABDUCTION FROM THE MISSION

Roxo's unorthodox methods also got him in trouble with the Catholic church. He stole his bride from a Catholic mission and counted this episode as one of his most successful forays. He had noticed Cecelia, an attractive young black girl, at a mission station in the vicinity of Masangulo, about 90 kilometers from Vila Cabral. Portuguese women would have little to do with Roxo. His profession, they felt, precluded a long-time com-

Cecelia and Roxo became acquainted, and things took a natural turn. He took her off into the bush. However, the Catholic church took a dim view, looked for Roxo for months, and even reported the matter to the government. But the couple was never caught and finally the affair was remedied in the conventional manner. They now have six children.

AHEAD OF THE GAME

Roxo was a keen political observer and guessed the true nature of the growing unrest in Africa long before the so-called experts. In 1962, he noticed the restlessness of the indigenous population. Political agitators, many from Tanzania, were cropping up all over. They made fiery freedom speeches and wild promises to the untutored bush population.

The most significant event came when 1,500 whites were killed in the Portuguese colony of Angola because the authorities there were unprepared. Roxo did not want this to happen in Mozambique, so he went to the Portuguese authorities with his information and political estimation of the

situation. He knew things would deteriorate, and that big-game hunting was over as a profession.

He made his move and got appointed as a clerk in social psychiatry. His job was to warn the natives of the dangers of a possible war and to prepare them not to believe terrorist propaganda.

He was enormously successful because of his wide-spread reputation and the complete trust the natives had in him. He was not considered one of the "great white hunters" because he did not use blacks to do his hunting for him. He always took part and would not sit around the fire waiting for the trophies to come in. The local people gave him all the information he needed. He was one of them.

NATIVE UPRISINGS

It happened in 1964. The guerrilla war officially started when two little villages were simultaneously attacked by terrorists. Roxo was sent to ascertain whether help had been given the terrorists by Mozambique natives. His recon took eight days. He marched over 100 kilometers. He reported to headquarters, but nothing was done.

Then, on 24 August 1964, a Dutch missionary was attacked and killed by terrorists using bows and arrows. It was the first white death. Portuguese troop reinforcements were sent to the area. They were new recruits fresh from Lisbon, who knew nothing about jungle warfare. Roxo was brought in to teach them. For two months, he trained them in the jungles and harsh mountain terrain. It was tough going, in more ways than one. They were slow to learn, and Roxo came to an important conclusion.

Terrorists are jungle people, he told himself. City people cannot fight bush

The insurgent movement was well under way by 1964. Several nationalist groups had united to form the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo), headed by American-educated Eduardo Mondalane. When the Portuguese refused to consider independence, Frelimo initiated guerrilla warfare in northern Mozambique. Mondalane was killed by a mailbomb in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in 1969. He was eventually succeeded by Somoa Machel, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique since independence in 1975.

Frelimo received aid from several foreign sources, mainly bordering African countries, but also Sweden, Red China, and Russia. Frelimo forces were considered the best-equipped and trained of the African "freedom fighters."

Independence was precipitated by the military overthrow of the Portuguese government on 25 April 1974, mainly because of dissatisfaction at home with the economic drain to the African colonies. The new regime favored self-determination. A number of reform measures were enacted. Negotiations started with Frelimo, leading to a June 1974 cease-fire, followed by an agreement on Mozambique's independence in June 1975. As black rule became a reality, increased racial violence erupted. There were wide-spread reports of atrocities and massacres on both sides. There was an exodus of Europeans.

Transition to black rule was poorly prepared and too sudden. The economy collapsed overnight, deprived of its manpower. The government recruited from socialist countries, but there were language and readjustment difficulties.

The new Marxist government tried to entice Portuguese cadres to return, but the attempt was met with limited -S. Nielsen success.

people. Bush people would have to be fought by better bush people.

HELL COLUMN FORMED

Roxo rounded up his old hunting companions and received the army's permission to form his own autonomous unit. So, the coluna infernal (column from hell) was born. Roxo trained them not to be afraid of gun-fire by shooting as close to their feet as he could. The men would not budge. Then, they would take off at a run, and still the Kalashnikov would chatter after their heels. He taught them to walk so lightly through the jungle that landmines were not triggered. The men were in such good condition that they carried out missions at a dead run, striking so quickly that they gained the reputation of being in two places at once.

TYPICAL ROXO FASHION

One incident illustrates how he put these techniques to work. Roxo received information that Frelimo reinforcements were crossing a river between Mozambique and Tanzania. He just sat back and waited until the terrs had joined up with the main group. He and a group of his men were dropped by helicopters near the base but out of earshot. They quickly grouped and attacked so suddenly that the terrorists' only recourse was to use bayonets. There was no time to fire. Roxo caught four single-handedly. Another four were shot dead. The rest fled. Roxo's inventory after mopping up was two mortars, three heavy machine guns, many imdocuments, hundreds portant camouflage uniforms, ammunition, a radio transmitter and a field telephone. All hostages in the camp were freed and brought to safety. An excellent haul, and not bad PR.

COUNTING COUP

In 1972, with 10 years of anti-terrorist activity behind, Roxo captured more than 200 weapons and was credited with 40 kills. The following year he bagged another 30, and collected more than 200 weapons, including 14 heavy and six light machine guns, two long-range cannons, four light anti-aircraft cannons, two mortars, two flamethrowers, 30 Kalashnikovs, nine machine pistols, and 50 Siminov automatic rifles. Roxo lost one man.

A PARTING SHOT

The man was only the third Roxo lost in a decade of fighting. It was early 1974. A group of about 15 terrorists heavily armed with modern automatic Chinese and Russian rifles, some with nightsights, were moving south to Vila Cabral, the strongest white outpost in the far northwest. It was the capital of Niassa Province, seat of the provincial governor, a strong military base — and Roxo's home. The goal was to move about 50 kilometers from the town and wait to be joined by other groups of infiltrators. They were planning a night attack to coincide with attacks farther south. It was to be a psychological blow Continued on page 87

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UGANDA

Continued from page 77

Despite the war, life for the average Ugandan has not changed radically.

Nor is it likely to, since it will take years to put the country back on a viable economic footing. After the looting, the problem now is to put goods back in stores in a bid to encourage economic growth, for if the country does not prosper there can only be another revolution.

All that is coming into Uganda now are relief supplies of food and medical equipment, some World Ban handouts, small guantities of gasoline — there are milelong queues for petrol — and a few perishables from neighboring Kenya, frequently looted en route by Tanzanian soldiers manning road blocks.

Idi Amin's men were reluctant fighters.

While I was in the city, one of the Bata shoe stores received a supply of plastic shoes, the first in months. The army had to be called in with dogs to maintain order.

These scenes contrast with others—members of Uganda's Squash Club meeting for "sundowners" each evening at the Uganda Club across from the Kampala International; Tanzanian troops camping out in tents in the municipal park, one of the best kept bits of greenery in black Africa.

Gradually, things are changing for the better. The dreaded State Research Center has been disbanded and the Ugandan police, working with their Tanzanian counterparts, are trying to instill a modicum of order throughout the country.

Their role is exacerbated by the presence of bands of former Amin soldiers—all desperate, hungry, angry men—who come out from the jungle in search of food. *Kondos*, they are called locally.

Many patrols that set out in the surrounding bush each day make contact with them or scores of Libyans, even more desperate than the Kondos, because they are caught in the vortex of war in a strange country that does not speak their language.

Every day while I was in the city, Libyans were spotted in the bush by local Ugandans, frequently women working in the fields. Several of these Arabs had their heads cleaved open with pangas and the remains afterwards proudly displayed in the local market center until an army truck arrived to take the bodies away. Many corpses were dumped in the same grove of trees that Idi Amin once used to dispose of his enemies' bodies.

The wheel has certainly turned full circle, but it could turn again if excesses are not limited.

The future is uncertain. Uganda is stuck with a Tanzanian occupation force she does not want, yet cannot do without, since even Amin's disorganized armed rabble could cause chaos should Nyerere's troops withdraw.

Of paramount importance is the fact that Idi Amin must never return. He was so hated that although many of his personal medals were left lying about Kampala, no one made an effort to retrieve them, even the gold-plated ones. I took two pocketfuls and no one batted an eye-

Idi Amin must never return.

Yet, his legacy lives on. He is still spoken about in Kampala's streets with a certain amount of awe, now laced with venom. His homes have been looted and his pictures defiled. All that remains are the shells of buildings he used for eight brutal years to terrorize a nation.

As I spoke with the Ugandan businessman in Nairobi who "fled" Kampala as "a hated enemy of Idi Amin" and is now anxious to get back, I was reminded of Germany after World War II where no one was a follower of Hitler.

I asked him when he had left the country — "In January this year," he replied seriously.



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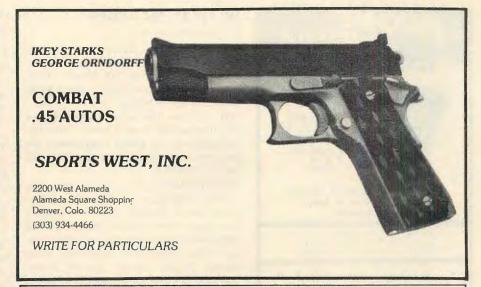
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OPTICAL ILLUSION

Continued from page 64

WESTERHOUT: These are Diopter powers - your optometrist will understand this. You just talk about +0.25, +0.50, +0.75. He will immediately know what you are referring to.

SOF: Thre are new methods available now for cleaning soft contact lenses. Does this not represent an added convenience for the man-in-the-field, dispensing with the heat sterilizer?

WESTERHOUT: They began using this in the United States, in early 1978, I think. In the States, the control of soft contact lens usage comes via the Food and Drug Administration which, quite rightly, was concerned about eye infections being spread by the use of contact lenses, because, in theory, the porous material could absorb bacteria and cause eye infection. It was thought the only reliable method was the heat sterilization procedure and that's been insisted upon until

Many other countries, Europe in particular, Australia, New Zealand, and

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Africa, have been using chemical sterilization of soft lenses for something like six years. Now, I'm glad to say, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the use of certain cold, chemical sterilization procedures for soft contact lenses — the brand names are Flexol, Normal, and Preflex. By now, all American optometrists and opthomologists should be able to provide these sort of solutions. Their big advantage, of course, is the removal of the inconvenience of having to have a heat source.

This is very important for the active man, or the military man. If you're a military man out on active operations. you could hardly carry around an electric sterilizing device, and it's for that sort of man that the soaking solution is so much more convenient. It is also much more expensive. Nothing quite beats heating them in saline for economy, but, for convenience in certain situations, chemical sterilization is preferable.

However, some people are allergic to these solutions, and if you are allergic to them, you can't use them. There are a variety of different ones available; most are based on the same chemicals, which are preservatives for the saline solution basically, but they do have other solutions based on iodine and ammonium compounds, which can also be very successful. If you're allergic to one, you may not be allergic to the others, so you can try different solutions.

SOF: How efficient are colored shooting lenses?

WESTERHOUT: This is perhaps one of the most contentious issues in shooting. There is no doubt that some shooters feel they do better with certain types of tints, and if they think they do better, and feel more comfortable, then they do better. As we all know, shooting ability is a very subjective thing. If you have more confidence in what you're using, you'll generally perform better.



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But optically, the use of tints is of dubious value. In particular, if you're looking through aperture sights you want to try and get the minimum aperture to try and reduce the alignment error of the sights, and at the same time, maximize the amount of light you can utilize. Obviously, if you start looking through tinted lenses, you reduce the amount of light that gets to the eye and thus, may be doing more harm than good.

The main value of tinted lenses is exaggerating the contrast. If, for example, you are looking at rather dull, overcast conditions, with a buff- or black-colored target at considerable distance, if you'd look through a yellow or what's commonly called a Kalichrome lens, you'd get an enormous apparent increase in contrast, which seems to make it much easier to line up the sights and the target. If a shooter thinks it helps him, maybe it does. Whether, of course, the person is actually lining up any better is questionable because the effect is illusory rather than real.

Most competitive shooters, in longrange and short-range, full-bore and small-bore competition, seem to be moving more and more away from the use of tinted lenses. Most of them look through a plain lens.

Of course, it's well worthwhile to incorporate your prescription lens into your back sight if the laws of the competition allow it, but that's a different matter. You're simply correcting an optical error.

Editor's Note: SOF contacted Indiana University's Dr. Charles R. Shick, Professor of Optometry, Director of Clinics, Chairman of the Department of Clinical Sciences, life member of the NRA, and president of the Sycamore Valley Gun Club, Bloomington, Indiana. Chuck, a hipowered rifle buff, told us that the special shooter's soft contact lens, pioneered by Dr. Westerhout in Rhodesia, is not yet

available in this country. Dr. Shick reminds SOF readers that it is always advisable for shooters and non-shooters to have protective eyewear in any shooting situation.



—S. Nielsen

ROXO

Continued from page 83

along with the lightning attack on a major center, Vila Cabral.

To the south another group of blacks was on the prowl. The *coluna infernal*. Roxo held up two fingers. He smelled the terrorists at 200 meters. The Frelimo were nervous because their scout had reported that the white devil was near, the one who killed with his bare hands.

At that very moment, Roxo attacked. Half the Frelimo scattered, their ambush plan abandoned. It was over in minutes. One of Roxo's men was wounded. The troops started to relax in the after-battle silence. Then, through that silence, the sound of a single shot. The bullet slammed into the heart of one of Roxo's men. He died without a word.

VENGEANCE IS MINE

The man had been with Roxo for six

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years. Roxo ordered one of his men to radio a helicopter to find out what was happening. In the meantime, he was gone, slipping into the jungle, blending with the vegetation, a death machine on the run. He knew his goal and kept after it for seven kilometers. Coming to a swift halt, nose in the air, he knew there were six grouped ahead of him, totally at ease, suspecting nothing. Several of the group moved off into the forest. It was time to act. Roxo jumped into their midst like a wild thing. Two managed to loosen their rifles, but the Kalashnikov was already chattering. A neat horseshoe pattern appeared on each chest. The corpses were left with Roxo's death card soaking up the blood. Swift revenge — and sweet.

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His instructions to his men were as direct and uncompromising as the man himself:

"If you see me being taken prisoner, shoot me."

It didn't come that way for Daniel Francisco Roxo. In the fall of 1976 he stepped on a landmine and died the way he lived.





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Adventure Quartermaster

by N.E. MacDougald

THANKS this month to Jay Lawless who covered the NRA show for SOF and took photographs of new products. He reports:

HE 1979 National Rifle Association Convention was held in San Antonio, 18 through 20 May. Over 200 manufacturers displayed their wares representing the entire spectrum of firearms and accessories. According to an ATF agent at the show, gun shows are for collectors and modern guns, guns like S&W model 29s are not collector items! There must be something

those guys are good for.

Of the many gun products on display at San Antonio none were so numerous or diverse as rifle stocks. If this is any indication, tomorrow's sniper rifle will be a far cry from traditional designs.



RADICAL RIFLE

Lee Custom Engineering, Dept. SOF, Hartford, WI 53027, (414) 673-3060, displayed this radical benchrest rifle with skeletonized aluminum stock. They also sell the handloading tools on the table. Prices upon request.

New camo stocks

Brown Precision, Dept. SOF, 5869 Indian Avenue, San Jose, CA 95123 still offers fiberglass stocks for most bolt actions, but now offers them in various camouflage patterns complete with barreled action and scope. Stainless steel barrels are available as are various metal platings if you desire real weather resistance. Several stock styles are offered.



New OLYMPIC STOCKS

Several varieties of thumbhole stocks for Olympic shooters were on hand. For information as to price, composition, weight, etc., contact Jay Lawless c/o SOF.



NEW RUGER REDHAWK

Sturm Ruger and Co., Dept. SOF, Southport, CT 06490, displayed a prototype of their Redhawk stainless, doubleaction .44 magnum. They claim cylinder wall thickness 25% greater than competitive models. Also, the cylinder locks into the frame at the rear and front of the crane. The frame is made without a removable sideplate for greater strength. The Redhawk with 7½-inch barrel will be available soon at a retail price of \$325. Watch for a blued chrome-moly version later featuring a 10-inch tube. Free catalog available upon request.



Custom snubby

Behlert Custom Guns, Inc., Dept. SOF, 725 Lehigh Ave., Union, NJ 07083, makes Smith & Wesson's Model 29 into a snubnose. Price upon request.

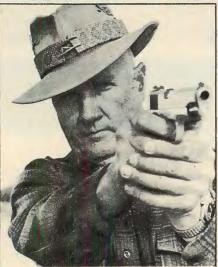
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SAIGON

Continued from page 43

And then the big gun clicked empty, and he was sliding down the tree like a monkey. He jumped the last 15 feet to the ground, landed like a cat and drew a pistol from his waistband. Shooting in all directions, he charged down the hill towards us, yelling, "Viet-Nam Cong Hoa muon nam!"

Simultaneously everyone leveled his weapon at him and fired.

"Jesus Christ!" somebody gasped behind me as we watched his body reverse course back toward the trees; chunks of meat and bone flew through the air and stuck to the huge boulders. One of our rounds detonated a grenade the soldier carried, and his body smashed to the ground beneath a shower of blood. Just as the last wave of gunfire died away, the big red morning sun broke above the horizon, sending a bright crimson glow across the sky.

"It's almost ironic," said the squad leader softly, as he stared out at the sunrise. He didn't elaborate, but I understood. We all understood.

The young Viet Cong was a good soldier, even if he was a communist. He died for what he believed in. He was not a gunner for Hanoi, he was VC. His country was not North Vietnam, he was South Vietnamese. His political beliefs did not

coincide with those of the Saigon government, so he was labeled an enemy of the people.

"He died a glorious death," mused the squad leader, more to himself than to any of us. He gazed out at the burning sun, then down at the dried earth beneath his green jungle boots. "A soldier is allowed to choose when and where he wishes to die." He smiled and repeated the phrase the Viet Cong had proclaimed as he charged down the hill. "Viet-Nam Cong-Hoa muon nam! (Republic of Vietnam for 10,000 years!)"

"But that slogan is used by ARVN soldiers," I said. He looked at me as if I'd said something stupid and walked away.

A young Vietnamese girl appeared out of nowhere and sat down next to one of the dead VC. She just sat there staring at the pile of weapons, and slowly rocked herself back and forth. I couldn't tell if she was crying, because she never once looked over at us. She just sat there. A fly crawled along her cheek, but she paid no attention to it.

"A soldier is allowed to choose when and where he wishes to die."

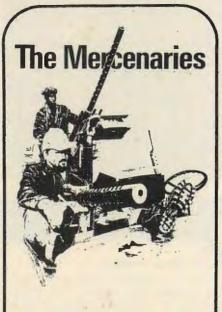
She just sat there.

She was the 7-year-old daughter of a Viet Cong soldier, and I wondered if she had been conditioned to accept death and war and sorrow. She was an orphan now, and I wondered if there were confusion in her mind, or sadness, or just an emptiness that no one could understand.

I wanted to go over and comfort her, but I found myself walking down the hill with the others. I never looked back.

"I thought I told you clowns to retreat!" the C.O. was yelling. We tried to explain that we could barely hear the radio, much less our own thoughts, what with all the bullets flying over our heads, but I don't think he bought it. One of the lieutenants began handing out copies of President Nixon's peace proclamation, and the captain explained that we were to speak to no one about today's contact with the enemy.

"I will not have the peace treaty jeopar-



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dized!" he fumed, but then he was shaking hands and telling us how we were all up for medals and how he wished he had been there. As I stood at parade rest in that dusty guardmount formation, I looked at my squad leader and we exchanged relieved smiles. None of us had died out on that hill, and some of us should have.

We found the bodies of four communists and a crate of small rockets ...

About 60 miles away, in An Loc, Colonel Bill Nolde was conferring with the village priest on ways to get the economy of the area rolling again. The official end of the war was only hours away. Colonel Nolde had been assigned to the capital of Binh Long Province a half year earlier, just as the city was midway through its five-month siege by communist command troops and heavy guns. An Loc had once been a beautiful city surrounded by rubber plantations; now it was little more than a moonscape of bomb craters and red dust.

At the height of the siege, over 7,000 rockets, mortars and artillery shells fell each day on the city. It was believed the communists wanted the town as a showpiece for their spring offensive. More than 10,000 North Vietnamese soldiers died trying to take the city, which the VC wanted as a provincial capital.

Colonel Nolde, whose five children were growing up in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, took every opportunity to visit the Vietnamese orphanages during his offduty hours, and often travelled to the refugee camp at Phu Van to help people whom the war had driven from their homes. At 43, he was greatly admired by the Vietnamese soldiers who knew him well.

As Colonel Nolde was walking back to his quarters from the main barracks, a single artillery round descended upon him from the skies. He was the last of nearly 46,000 Americans to be killed in the Vietnam war.

It was a distinction nobody wanted.



BIANCHI MATCH

Continued from page 37

National Rifle Association representatives were present to observe the match and the competitors. They went away very pleased with the tournament's conduct.

Dr. Werner Weissenhofer of Salsburg, Austria, travelled the farthest to compete. Werner, one of Europe's top practical pistol competitors, was also match director and sponsor of the 1976 world championship hosted by the Austrians. The single Bianchi Cup female contestant, Heidi Lippmeier, came from Cincinnati, Ohio. She is an accomplished PPC shooter and has recently shown very good form in the IPSC events in her area. All geographic regions of the U.S. were represented.

Many well-known gun writers attended and shot in the match. Jim Woods of Guns & Ammo shot his favorite wheelgun. Rick Miller shot his prize Swenson .45 and proved that he understands pistolcraft as well as having gunwriting skills. Massad Ayoob of the Handgunner shot very fine scores, finishing in the money. Bill Norton, Police Product News, finished 11th, taking home an S&W M-66 revolver. It was good to see the gun writers competing as well as observing the contest.

Ray Chapman, with the help of his associates, Richard Thomas and Raul Walters, worked hard to provide a select site for this annual Bianchi tournament. Their help combined with the hard work by John Bianchi and his staff of workers makes the future for this form of practical pistol shooting look good. I was pleased and impressed with the quality of the matches. In fact, everyone I spoke with planned to come back next year to outperform his past match score.

I saw a number of new gun modifications being used in the match and some changes in holster and gun-belt design. Lyn Schoening of the Midwest Combat Pistol League was testing a custom longslide P-35 Browning built by Austin Behlert. Lou Sharp, Colt sales rep, used an experimental, long, heavy-barrel .45 auto built for this match by pistolsmith Jimmy Clark. Kirk Kirkham of Arizona

carried a new gun-belt rig made by Gordon Davis that supported his new tension weld design. Gordon Davis' new Model 1038 crossdraw revolver holster was also in use. It promises to be the revolver shooter's choice of the future.

Over 45 gun or firearms-relxted firms donated prizes for the Bianchi Cup. Such support helps make a prestigious shooting event even more rewarding to the contestants. Firearms were given as prizes up to contestant number 30.

(Top 20 Contestants)

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7.	Ad Clark	
8.	Steve Hamilton	1755-60X
9.	Bill Wilson	1741-55X
10.	Jim Scordato	1739-44X
11.	Bill Norton	
12.	Jim Baynes	1725-50X
13.	Kirk Kirkham	1714-43X
14.	Massad Ayoob	1703-36X
15.		
16.	John Shaw	1682-55X
17.	Ralph Pendleton	1674-40X
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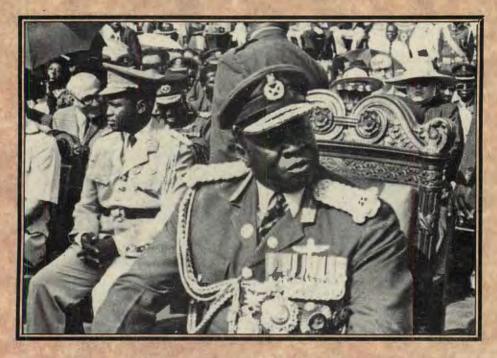
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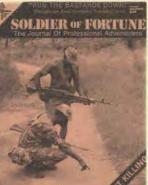
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